



THE VILLAGE PIONEER

*Journal of the Sheffield Village Historical Society
& Cultural Center*



Holiday Greetings from Sheffield Village Historical Society



Winter snow blankets blue spruce trees at Willoway Nursery on Detroit Road, with Garfield Farms in the distance.

This December marks the fourth Holiday Issue of *The Village Pioneer*. With this issue you may have noticed the descriptive line has been changed to read *Journal of the Sheffield Village Historical Society & Cultural Center*, instead of *Newsletter*. This change is being made in recognition of the praise the Society has received for the quality of the articles published in *The Village Pioneer*. The editorial staff is most appreciative of your kind words and suggestions for future articles.

We wish you all a happy Holiday Season and a productive New Year. This has been another active and gratifying year for the Historical Society—our membership now stands at 344, with the Landmark Preservation Commission of the City of Avon and Nick Abraham Nissan of Sheffield being our newest members. The Society's quarterly trustees meetings are held in January, April, July, and October at the Sheffield History Center. All meetings are open to members and their guests.

Historic Fire Truck Donated to the Historical Society

On October 12, 2009, the Sheffield Village Council voted unanimously to donate the Fire Department's historic 1946 fire truck to the Sheffield Village Historical Society (Ordinance No. 2217). Society president, Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf, thanked the Members of Council and Mayor Hunter for this gracious gift and promised that the Society would undertake a project to get the fire truck in running condition so that it could be used in parades and displayed at other community functions as a reminder of the brave men and women who have served on the Village's volunteer Fire Department (1934-1992) and the full-time Fire Department (1993-present). Councilman Ron Forster, Fire Captain Greg Davis, and retired BP truck driver Donnie Hammer have volunteered to lead the restoration process. Steve Huether graciously offered the services



1946 Chevrolet/Bean fire truck donated to the Historical Society.



Steve's Towing of Sheffield Village, Ohio, towing the 1946 fire truck from Station No. 2 to the Historical Society on October 21, 2009.

of his towing company to move the fire truck from Station No. 2 at the corner of Detroit and Gulf Roads to the Garfield Farms barn, directly across the road from the Sheffield History Center, where repair work will begin. Steve and Donnie moved the truck on October 21, assisted by Lt. Ron Trifiletti who provided traffic control with his police cruiser. The Historical Society gratefully thanks all of those involved in making possible the preservation of this treasured piece of our Village's heritage.

The history of the 21-foot long fire truck begins in 1945 at the close of World War II. During the War, American auto makers shifted their manufacturing efforts from domestic to military vehicles and it was not until after the War that truck chassis were once again readily available for public purchase. At the October 2, 1945 meeting of the Sheffield Village Council, a motion was made by John Laven, seconded by Lawrence Traxler, instructing Village Clerk Andrew Schmitz to advertise for bids for a new fire truck and equipment at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. The motion passed unanimously. At the December 29, 1945 Council meeting the Clerk read bids from two companies, the only ones received for fire equipment mounted on a truck. Following discussion,



Donnie Hammer, Steve Huether, and Eddie Herdendorf organize the move.

Councilman Traxler, seconded by Michael Bruder, moved to purchase high-pressure fire equipment mounted on a Chevrolet truck chassis from the John Bean Mfg. Co. of Lansing, Michigan at a cost of \$5,659.69, F.O.B. Lansing, and order two speed axles

at an additional cost. The motion passed. At the March 19, 1946 Council meeting the Clerk read a letter from the John Bean Mfg. Co. with reference to the contract for the new fire truck. A motion was passed granting Mayor Clyde McAllister and the Clerk authority to sign the contract for the new fire equipment at a cost of \$5,789.82. At the same meeting, a motion was also passed for the Clerk to advertise the sale of the Village's old fire truck in *The Ohio Farmer* and also to write the Osnauburg Township (Stark County) Trustees advising of the availability of the fire truck for purchase. Apparently, the old fire truck, a 1933 Ford V-8 chassis, was not sold at that time and was still in service on the Village Fire Department as late as the 1960s.

There was an even earlier fire truck in the Village—a Model-T Ford chassis that was originally owned by Sheffield Lake Village, then transferred to Brookside Township when it split from Sheffield Lake in 1933. The Model-T was housed in a garage owned by Earl Johnson at the southern end of the Township. The Model-T was in poor repair and the Brookside Township Board of Trustees approved repairs to the fire truck on December 1, 1933. In 1934, the Model-T was transferred to the newly formed Village of Sheffield, which replaced Brookside Township, and on July 17, 1934, the Village Council voted to purchase the

1933 Ford V-8 chassis for \$440 from George A. Falke, Inc. of Lakewood, Ohio. At the same meeting a motion was passed to accept Walter McAllister's offer to buy the Model-T fire truck for \$25, the sale not to be completed until the arrival of the new chassis. An attached fire barn was later built at the rear of the Village Hall that housed fire trucks for several decades.

Getting back to the 1946 Bean fire truck, at the June 18, 1946 Council meeting, the Solicitor, Frank A. Stetson, read Ordinance No. 122 providing for the issuance of notes by the Village in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of purchasing the new fire truck. The Council voted to suspend the 3-reading rules and the ordinance was adopted. At the August 6, 1946 meeting, the Council voted to pay expenses for three firemen to attend schooling given by the John Bean Mfg. Co. in Lansing, Michigan (\$81.44) and to purchase insurance to cover the new fire truck for the trip from Lansing to Sheffield (\$70.70, including the premium for the fire barn). At the same meeting the Council once again authorized the Clerk to advertise the 1933 fire truck for sale in *The Lorain Journal* and *The Chronicle Telegram* for one week (total cost \$8.62). Fire Chief Walter McAllister drove the new fire truck back to Sheffield later that month after attending the fire school. At

the February 18, 1947 Council meeting, the matter of housing the old fire truck, for which a buyer was not found, was discussed. Raymond Potter, bring present at the meeting, offered the Village the free use of his barn for six months. The offer was accepted with the thanks of Council. Later that year the Village constructed a small garage on the west side of the Village Hall to house the Ford.

For the following ten years, the 1946 Bean fire truck was the primary fire-fighting equipment in the Village. But the old 1933 Ford continued to see frequent service, often to fight grass fires that were prevalent in the old farm fields some 40 to 50 years ago and to carry an additional water supply for the Bean. The Bean itself was eventually replaced by a new 1957 Howe fire truck that was purchased for \$11,337 at the same time that a new fire station was constructed at the corner of Colorado Avenue and East River Road. Thus, in 1957, the Village Fire Department operated three fire trucks—the Bean and the Howe garaged in the new fire station and the old Ford in the fire barn at the rear of the Village Hall. In the last 50 years the Village has purchased additional fire trucks, and in 1999 the fire station was enlarged and remodeled to accommodate the present Municipal Center.



Fire Chief Charles E. Herdendorf, Jr. (right) and 1st Asst. Fire Chief Herb K. Langthorp stand between the 1933 Ford (left), 1946 Chevrolet/Bean, and 1957 International/Howe fire trucks at the dedication of fire station on April 28, 1957.

Family Pride Day & Arts Fest A Success

The Second Annual Sheffield Village Family Pride Day was held at the French Creek Nature Center on September 12, 2009. This year's Pride Day was combined with the TrueNorth's Arts Fest to create a truly memorable outing, attended by several hundred visitors. The day's events included: guided nature hikes, several bands performing on an outdoor stage, artists demonstrating their creations, and chances for visitors to craft their own masterpieces. Historical Society Board of

Trustees members Andy & Carol Minda, Jack & Patsy Hoag, and Leo & Bobbie Sheets set up and manned a display table of Society publications and artifacts. During the day they were instrumental in signing up eight new members, as well as promoting the Society. In the afternoon, Board Member Tom Hoerrle presented an illustrated lecture on *The History of Sheffield Village*. Sponsored by KeyBank and TrueNorth Cultural Arts Center, a Pie Auction Contest was held to benefit the

Sheffield Village Historical Society. The contest and other donations amounted to over \$700 for the Society. The Historical Society wishes to thank the sponsors, the bakers of those delicious pies, and those who participated in the auction. The funds will be used further the Society's research and educational mission. Planning has already begun for the 2010 Family Pride Day, which may include a trolley tour of the Village's historic landmarks. Photographs courtesy of Mayor John D. Hunter.



Lt. Paula Clark at Fire Department exhibit.



Fire Chief Jeff Young & Police Chief Larry Bliss.



Karen Davis of KeyBank greets Jack & Patsy Hoag.



Carol & Andy Minda at Historical Society table.



Face painting.



Harry Gerent and his pies.



Tasty-looking Pie Auction entries.



Tom Hoerrle presents Sheffield history.

Apple Butter Day At Ackerosa

October 10th—from dawn to dusk at the Jean Ackerman Farm on Abbe Road, it was Apple Butter Day. An annual tradition, guests are invited to stir a boiling pot—no, more of a cauldron—of apples and cider until the compote becomes a delicious paste of apple butter that melts in your mouth when spread on warm bread. This year the more than 100 guests who attended, rather than being out in the open, were treated to a comfortable

shelter constructed by family and friends— spearheaded by Zack Brezinski and Max Ackerman. A sign hung from a roof truss, neatly burned into a wooden plaque that proudly announced: *THE ACKEROSA est. 1845.*

Jean Ackerman graciously shared with the Editor the process she uses to make apple butter. The night before Apple Butter Day, three bushels of ripe apples are peeled, cored, and cut into very thin slices. The slices are stored overnight in covered kettles to keep out fruit flies. Early the next morning a wood fire is started under a large iron cauldron into which 20 gallons of apple cider are added. Once the cider is at a strong boil, the apple slices are added. Then the stirring begins with a wooden paddle on a long handle. The stirring continues throughout the day with most everyone taking a turn at the paddle—this year even Father Bob Franco stopped in to take his

turn before returning to his new parish in North Ridgeville. Once the apples begin to liquefy, 20 lbs. of sugar are added and the stirring continues to dusk. Near the end of the process, as the blend becomes the consistency of a soft pâté, cinnamon is added to give the sauce a spicy flavor. While the stirring is nearing an end, pre-washed half-pint jars, lids, funnels, and a dipper are being sterilized in boiling water over another fire. The final step is dipping the hot apple butter out of the cauldron and funnel it into sterile jars. This year Jean's efforts produced 100 half-pint jars.



Invitation to Apple Butter Day.



Jean Ackerman instructs her high school classmate, Steven Gaydosh (Lorain St. Mary's Class of 1952), on how to stir apple butter.

Goodbye & Best Wishes to Father Bob

With mixed emotions the Sheffield Village Historical Society says goodbye to Father Bob Franco of St. Teresa Catholic Church, but wishes him well in his new post as pastor of St. Peter Catholic Church in North Ridgeville. For the past seven years Father Bob has served as pastor of St. Teresa Church, presiding over his last Mass as pastor on August 20, 2009. His leadership, grace, and charismatic personality have been an inspiration not only to his the parishioners, but to the citizens of our entire Village. His strong support of the Historical Society is greatly appreciated, as well as his willingness to share the church's important historic documents. The records he made available to the Society for St. Teresa Cemetery tell a vital story of the early settlement and advancement of our Village.

Father Bob will also be remembered for his tomato garden, bicycle tours, and even stirring the cauldron at the Ackerman Farm on Apple Butter Day. Whenever the Editor visited the parish office, Father Bob was always most gracious in his welcome. At times we would walk the Cemetery together, we would speak of Village issues, or he would sing a little song at our table during a Lenten fish fry. He will be deeply missed. We wish him happiness, fulfillment, and great success at St. Peters.



Eddie Herdendorf bids goodbye to Fr Robert Franco at the farewell party held for Father Bob in the St. Teresa Parish Life Center on August 30, 2009.

More Sheffield Bear Stories

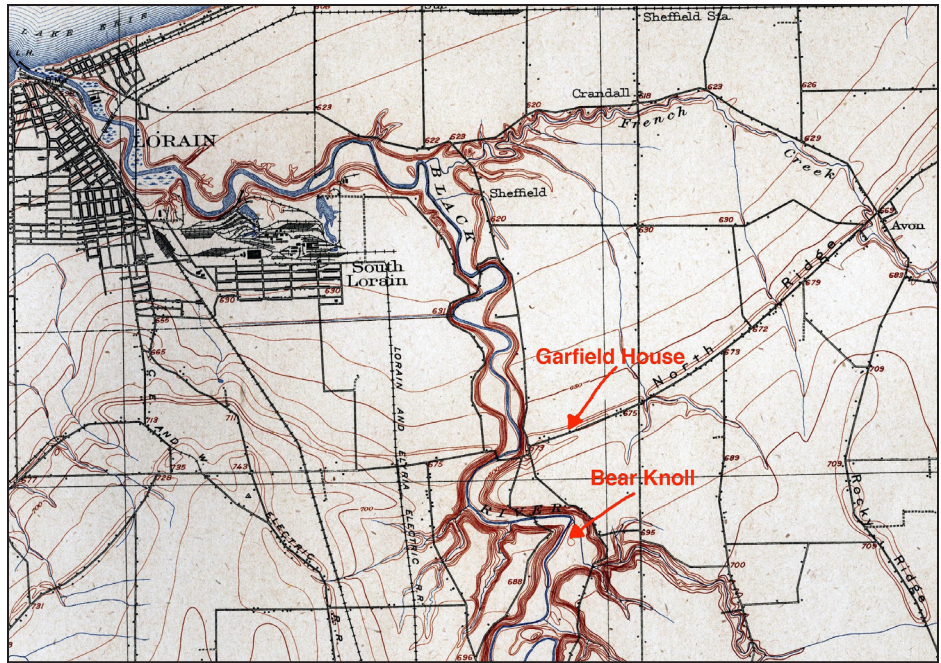
The September 2009 issue of *The Village Pioneer* (Vol. 4, No. 3, pages 13-15) contained an article on *The Bears of the Black River Valley and Cascade Park*. Since that time another Sheffield bear story has come to our attention courtesy of Society member Helen North-Root of Aztec, New Mexico. This story was told to Helen's father-in-law Frank Root (1914-2006) by his grandmother, Julia Garfield Root (1841-1923). Julia was the daughter of Milton Garfield (1792-1862), the original pioneer to settle on Sheffield's North Ridge in 1815. The story goes like this:

When Julia was quite young, fairly late one night two Indians came to the door of the Garfield Homestead. They wanted to know if they could come in and dry their moccasins by the fire. It seems that they had tracked a huge bear from near Medina to Sheffield not far from the Garfield's home. The Indians were welcomed in to warm themselves and their footwear at the grand fireplace that stood in the main sitting room. Darkness was approaching when the Indians were ready to leave, so Milton invited them to stay for the night and they were fed a wholesome supper.

Early the next morning the Indians continued the tracking of the bear. They caught up with their prey on a wooded mound in the Black River valley. At the top of the mound the large male bear was cornered, shot, and killed. [Male bears are typically larger than females, ranging in length up to 6 feet and can weigh up to 600 pounds.] The Indians dressed the bear out, then bent two stout saplings down and tied the bear's legs to them. When the saplings were released the bear's carcass was pulled up into the air. Off the ground, their prize was safe from the ravage of other animals.

The next day the two braves, accompanied by several squaws, returned to the mound and cut the bear into parcels no larger than a man could carry. The original Indians came back to the Garfield Homestead with a very special cut from the bear for the family. This gift was meant to bring the Garfields good luck. The rest of the parcels were carried back to Medina to feed the small Indian village located there. Julia was pleased to say after this encounter that there were no hostile Indians in this area.

For many years thereafter the mound was known as "Bear Knoll." [The knoll is located on the



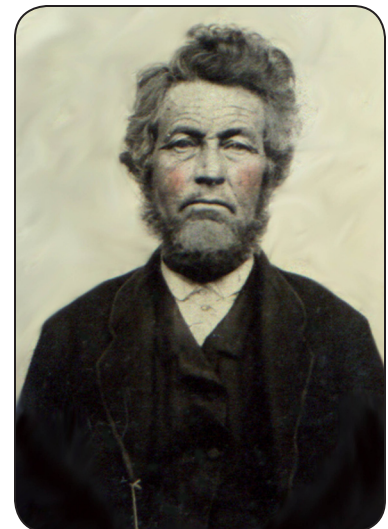
Black River valley topographic map, surveyed in 1901, showing the positions of Bear Knoll and the Milton Garfield Homestead, located about one mile apart (map courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey).



Painting of American Black Bear Ursus americanus (courtesy of the National Museums of Canada).



Julia Garfield Root at age 36 with two of her children, Tempe (age 7) and George (age 3) in 1877.



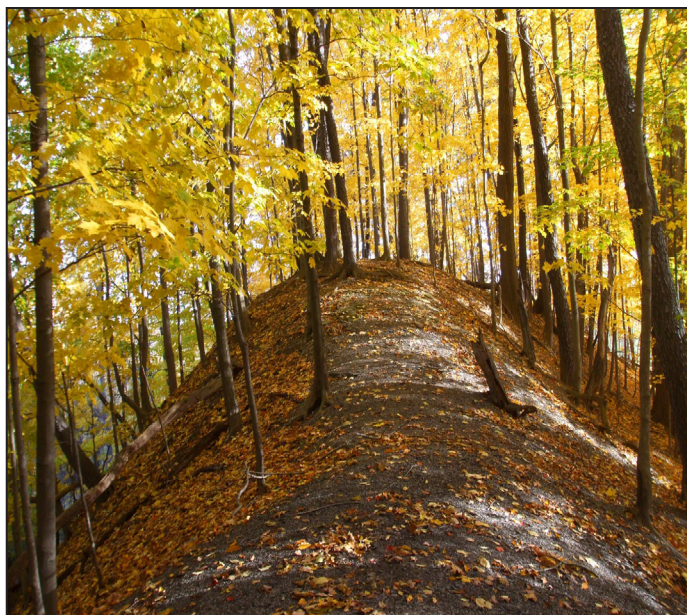
Col. Milton Garfield, founding pioneer on Sheffield's North Ridge, in the late 1850s.

Black River bottom, across the street and down the cliff from the old Gulf Road School at the corner of Burns and Gulf Roads in what was then Elyria Township. The knoll is clearly visible on the accompanying topographic map of the lower Black River valley, surveyed in 1901.]

But this not the only “Bear Knoll” story to come to light. Looking through *A Standard History of Lorain County, Ohio*, published by Oberlin Professor G. Frederick Wright in 1916, there is reference to a similar, or perhaps a slightly different version of the same event. It goes this way:

For several years before Milton Garfield was married [Tempe Williams of Avon in 1820], he and his brother Elijah kept bachelors’ hall in a log house [near the present location of the Sheffield History Center] across the road from the later home. One night the two brothers heard a knock, and when the door was opened two Indians stood there. They asked to come in and dry their clothes. They stayed all night, sleeping on the floor before the fireplace. They said they had killed a bear on a knoll on the flats and had left it hanging there. This knoll on the old Taylor place is still called the “Bear Knoll.” [Atlas of Lorain County, Ohio, published in 1874, shows the A. Taylor Farm in northern Elyria Township on the Black River floodplain west of the intersection of Burns Road and Gulf Road.] The next day the two Indians hunted in the North woods, killing two deer and coming back to Mr. Garfield’s to stay the second night. The two brothers helped them shoulder the deer the next morning, but they wondered how they were to carry the bear, as they said they were going for it. The Indian camp was at Indian Hollow [LaGrange Township]. Elijah Garfield went back to Massachusetts [Tyringham], married, and died there.

Whichever version one chooses to favor, there does appear to be some validity in the “Bear Knoll” stories. The knoll really is there, at least on the 1901 U.S. Geological Survey map of our area. Thus, the Editor decided to investigate the site and try to photograph the knoll. Stopping at a house at the base of the Black River bluff across from the old Gulf Road School, I was informed that Mrs. Beal lived next door and that she may know about the bear story. At 103 years old, Edna Beal was incredibly sharp and a delight to converse with about the location of knoll. Indeed, she had long heard the story that the last bear to be killed in Lorain County was shot on the knoll not far from her house. Leaving the Beal house, I crossed the wooded floodplain



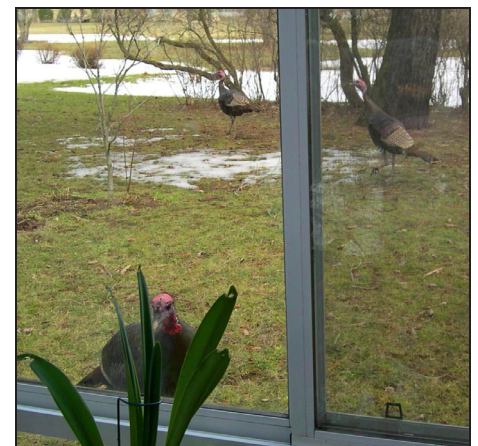
Bear Knoll in the Black River valley near the north Gulf Road hill (October 2009).

and a small tributary, eventually nearing the probable location of the knoll not far from the west bank of the Black River. There it was—I was amazed at the sight of a large isolated knoll, some 300 feet long, 100 feet wide, at least 50 feet high, and perfectly symmetrical in shape. No one had built the knoll—it was a natural erosion feature that a geologist would call a *circumdenudation*. The shale bedrock at its crest told the story of stream erosion along the sides, leaving an upstanding mass of resistant rock elongated downstream. Yes, the crest of the knoll would be an excellent place to hunt prey. As I started to climb the ridge an 8-point buck trotted along the crest. So perhaps ends the tales of black bears in the Black River valley, or at least for now.

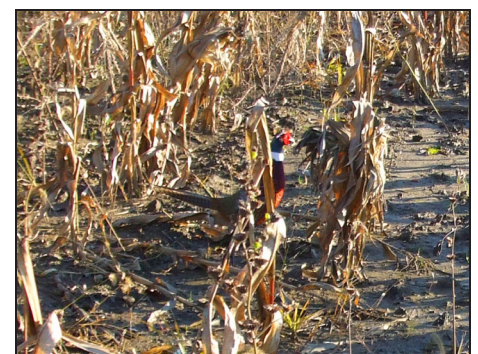


Frank Root, grandson of Julia Garfield Root, at Brookside High School in 1930.

As a footnote, Frank Root related another wildlife story, this one about wild turkeys. Two brothers named Gilson who lived on Abbe Road, just south of North Ridge, went hunting for turkeys in 1931. When they spotted one, George Gilson shot and broke the turkey’s wing, but the bird took off running. He decided to run after the turkey and try to catch it. George ran so hard and long that he dropped dead from exhaustion. [George Gilson is buried in Lot 48 of Block F in Garfield Cemetery.]



Wild turkeys are making a comeback in Sheffield. This trio was photographed at the Milton Garfield House on North Ridge last winter (Ricki Herdendorf).



Ring-necked pheasants have also returned to Sheffield. This colorful male was photographed in a cornfield on Detroit Road this October.

French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Just south of the Abbe Road bridge over French Creek, an attractive sign announces the entrance to the French Creek Water Pollution Control Plant. The plant treats wastewater from the communities of Avon, North Ridgeville, and Sheffield Village. A long, tree-lined drive leads to the 37-acre facility, better known as the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, operated by the City of North Ridgeville. In late October the sycamore trees that line the drive were in full fall color as a contingent from the Sheffield Village Historical Society approached the gate and announced our presence to a communication box. The electronic gate slowly opened and we were advised to come to the Administration Building and sign in. Soon we were joined by Plant Superintendent Donald D. Daley, who graciously answered our many questions and personally guided us on a 2-hour tour of the facility. Having been in charge of the plant for 22 years, it was obvious that Don Daley was proud of the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, and we all agreed after our visit that his pride was well justified.

Plant History

Taylor “Jack” Smith of the Avon Historical Society has explored the history of the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Jack traced the plant’s establishment back to 1966 when the Ohio Water Pollution Control Board urged the communities of Avon, North Ridgeville, and Sheffield Village to form the French Creek Sewer District. Avon resisted the idea, calling the plan a “marble outhouse.” In response to Avon’s lack of support for a sewer district, in 1968 the State imposed a building freeze on Avon. Avon citizens repeatedly voted against sewers, believing the building freeze would stop growth and preserve green space. In 1971, the Ohio General Assembly passed a bill giving the Ohio Water Pollution Control Board the power to direct the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) to build sewage treatment facilities and levy assessments upon users to pay for construction costs. After a long period of negotiation, in November 1973 the Councils of Avon, North Ridgeville, and Sheffield Village approved a final contract with the State of Ohio to build the treatment plant.



Entrance sign at the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, carved by Donald Daley.

Leo Sheets was serving as Sheffield Village Administrator during the original construction of the plant. Leo recalls that Johnson & Anderson Engineering of Pontiac, Michigan performed the engineering design and construction inspection for the plant. The deep trench required for the 54-inch main interceptor pipeline was hand-dug by coal miners from southern Ohio and West Virginia. Crossing Abbe Road at several locations, at times 20 feet of shale bedrock had to be excavated along the route to Avon and North Ridgeville. With construction of the plant underway, the State lifted the residential building ban on Avon, but kept the commercial/industrial restriction in place until the plant was opened. The \$23 million plant was completed in 1975 by the Ohio Water Development Authority, under Director Ned Williams, P.E., being funded by federal (75%) and state (25%) grants, with only a minor contribution from the local communities.

For several years the Ohio Water Development Authority operated the plant. Although the plant was designed to process up to 7.5 million gallons of wastewater per day (mgd) in the early years it only handled about 1.9 mgd. In 1983, the State offered to sell the plant to the local governments. Avon and Sheffield both declined the offer. Under Mayor Dick Noll, North Ridgeville’s offer of a mere \$11,000 was accepted. For

this reason, the City of North Ridgeville now owns and operates the wastewater treatment plant in the heart of Sheffield. But that’s all water over the dam, or should I say wastewater down the sewer—now we can be proud that one of the most modern and efficient treatment plants in the region is located in our community.



Donald Daley, Plant Superintendent at the Industrial Pre-Treatment Building.

Service Area

The French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant services the French Creek Sewer District, which encompasses the entire communities of Avon, North Ridgeville, and Sheffield Village—an area of nearly 50 square miles. In terms of wastewater processed by the plant, the breakdown is as follows:

North Ridgeville	60%
Avon	30%
Sheffield Village	10%

At slightly over 10 square miles, Sheffield Village is only about half the size of the other communities, but the other reason for the low percentage is that only the neighborhoods along Abbe Road have sewer lines; the remainder of the Village relies on septic tanks for wastewater disposal.

The annual budget for operating the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is \$5 million, contributed by the three participating communities at the approximate percentage listed above for the wastewater delivered to the plant from each community. The budget, rate charge, and other major operating/improvement decisions are made by the City of North Ridgeville on the recommendation of the plant management in consultation with a Satellite Sewer Committee, composed of representatives from the participating communities. Sheffield's representatives on

the Committee include Mayor John Hunter and Village Administrator Ken Kaczey. The communities in turn, set and collect user fees from residents and businesses as needed to meet their individual budget responsibility.

Don Daley explained a problem that occurs throughout the entire service area—a phenomenon known as “infiltration.” Surprisingly, about 30% of the wastewater that enters the plant does not come from sewer drains—it comes from groundwater. When the water table is high, groundwater seeps into breaks in the lateral sewer pipes. The older lines, particularly in Avon and North Ridgeville, were constructed with vitrified (glasslike) clay pipe that often breaks when the ground settles. With some 100 miles of pipe, the amount of groundwater infiltrating through these breaks can be significant. On average, about 2% of the sewer lines need to be replaced annually in a well-maintained system. Fortunately, Sheffield's sewer lines are much newer and were constructed with reinforced concrete pipe that is much less prone to breakage. During dry periods, when the water table falls below the sewer pipes, the reverse process can occur as wastewater leaks out and can contaminate the groundwater. [Drinking water lines are also prone to similar failures. Typically about 19% of the water carried by potable water lines is also lost through leaks in the system.]

How the Plant Operates

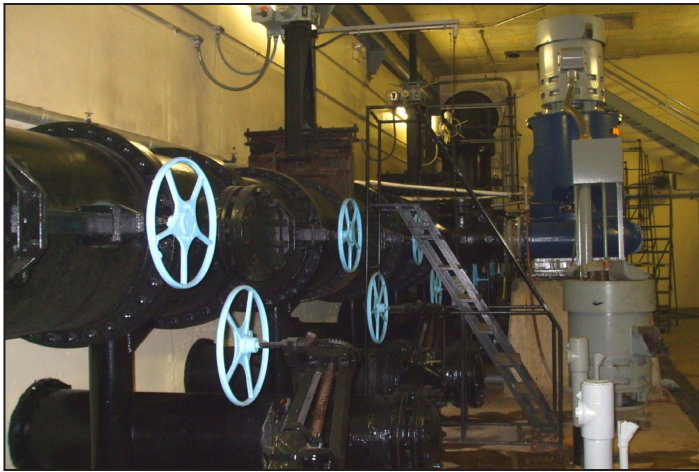
The French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has 23 full-time employees. Typically the plant operates 16 hours a day, in two shifts, and then is idle for 8 hours. The plant processes from 5.8 to 7.2 million gallons of wastewater each day. All of the sewage-laden water enters the treatment plant by gravity flow. To accomplish this, the 54-inch diameter main interceptor pipe is set 75 feet below the ground surface—four floors below the Administration Building. Here, a series of five huge pumps, each capable of pumping 3,750 gallons/minute, convey the inflowing wastewater to a large Wet Well some 25 feet above the ground. From the well the wastewater begins a 12-hour journey through the treatment plant. At the end of the process two things remain—purified water, that is discharged to French Creek just upstream of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad bridge, and inert sludge that has been processed for various beneficial uses.

The first stage in processing the wastewater consists of collecting large pieces of solid debris on bar screens located just ahead of the pumps under the Administration Building. From the Wet Well raw sewage flows by gravity to the Grit Building, where sand- to fine gravel-sized particles and solids of high specific gravity settle at the bottom of a Grit Tank. Some of the items collected on the screens are bizarre, including false teeth, hypodermic needles, diamond rings, wallets, and cash (one roll had \$150 dollars of soggy bills).

From the Grit Building the wastewater again flows by gravity to a Mixing Well and then to one of three Primary Clarifiers—circular digestion/settling tanks 120 feet in diameter—which consist of an outer ring where agitation occurs, and an inner ring with a revolving center shaft at the bottom fitted with plow-like blades that push the deposited sludge toward a central discharge hopper. In the outer ring, aeration tends to break the sewage into fine particles and aids in the biological digestion of organic waste materials. The microbial community bringing about the degradation of organic wastes, known as the *Activated Sludge Process*, is maintained in suspension in the liquid by diffused air. The wastewater in the clarifier literally appears to boil from the air injected into the tank from large compressors. Wastewater is continually



Aerial view of French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in 1996. Administration Building at lower left, Grit Building at center left, Sludge Building at upper left, and clarifier tanks at center right (courtesy of the City of North Ridgeville).



Fourth level down of the Administration Building where the main interceptor pipe enters the plant (left). Pumps (right) lift the wastewater to the Mixing Well where the treatment process begins.



Primary Clarifier Tank where aeration separates and microbes digest sludge in the outer ring. Sludge is deposited in the quiescent waters of the center ring.

recycled back to the Mixing Well where it mixes with incoming raw sewage for a period of 4 to 6 hours. The plant operator monitors the microbial content of the liquid in the Clarifiers. When the bacterial count reaches the proper *sludge age* of 2,500 to 3,500 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of mix liquor suspended solids (MLSS), the wastewater is ready for the next step. The particular two-ring design at the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, in conjunction with recycling the wastewater, is referred to as the *Walker Process*.

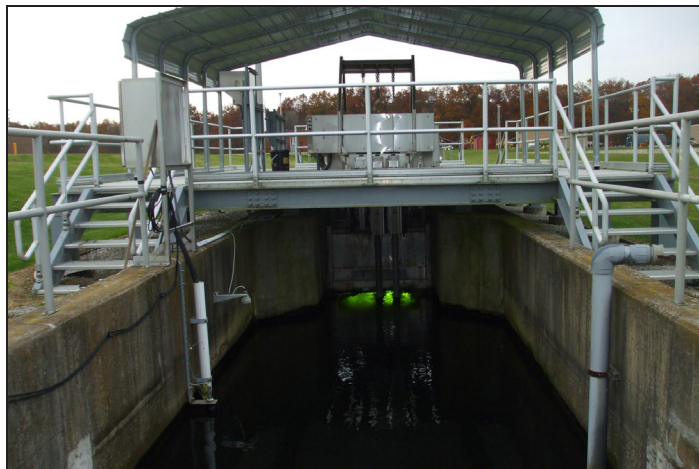
The next step in the process, *filtration*, consists of passing the wastewater from the Clarifiers through sand or membrane filters. The preferred filter at the plant is a 3-foot square woven-cloth membrane that looks and feels much like the inside of a fleece-lined jacket. A series of six membranes, mounted on steel frames, are set into a sluiceway where the filtration occurs. The membranes are capable of

being back-flushed to clear out filtered particles and are relatively durable, lasting up to five years.

The final step in the treatment process, known as *polishing*, involves passage of processed wastewater down a 251-foot-long concrete channel where final sedimentation of any particulate matter occurs. The channel was originally designed as a chlorine gallery where chemical disinfection was once used. Since that time chlorine-based compounds have been found to be deleterious to the ecology of streams. Now, at the end of the channel, ultra-violet rays are passed through the water. Working much like microwaves, they disinfect the processed water before it is discharged into French Creek. Sludge from the various collection points within the plant is carried to the Sludge Building for final processing. Here, powerful centrifuges further dewater the sludge through a recycling process. This digested sludge is only about one

third of its original volume and is a rather inoffensive, humus-like material. From the Sludge Building the final product is carried by a conveyor system to an exterior storage yard on the southwest corner of the site. Currently classified as Class B sludge, plans are underway to provide internal storage and upgrade the material to Class A.

Rainstorm infiltration is one of the most serious problems for the treatment plant. The plant can cope with up to twice the normal rate of wastewater during a storm, but when rainfall exceeds 2 inches the plant is prone to flooding. In the early years of plant operation, the amount of wastewater during heavy storms exceeded the plant's capacity to process it and the plant was flooded out on several occasions. With the approval of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), large holding tanks (1.5 million gallon-capacity) were constructed near the plant's outfall pipe to



Automated ultra-violet rays disinfect the processed water as it is discharged from the plant.



Outfall structure on French Creek at the end of the treatment process, where up to 5 million gallons of water are discharged to the creek each day.

temporarily hold excess raw sewage and blend it with processed wastewater before releasing it to French Creek. This bypass situation typically occurs once or twice each year. Severe cases of flooding took place in 1976 where sewer manhole covers were inadvertently left open in North Ridgeville during a rainstorm and again on August 20, 2005, when an estimated 5.8 inches of rain fell on the French Creek watershed—a near 100-year storm event.

Other features of the plant include 1.2 miles of lighted tunnels to carry utility lines. The tunnels originate in the second floor of the Administration Building and are large enough for two people to walk abreast. During the winter some of the plant's staff keep fit by running the tunnels. An impressive electrical room is located nearby, where incoming electromotive force of 69,000 volts is ultimately stepped down to 220 and 110 volts. A modern water quality laboratory is located in the Administration Building, where testing for hazardous/toxic chemicals and pathogenic bacterial is routinely conducted. The main control center is also located in this building. Here, computerized graphic displays of the various components of the plant permit an operator to monitor all aspects of plant operation.



Control Room in the Administration Building where the processes in the plant are monitored and controlled.

Plant Innovations

Don Daley and his Assistant Superintendent Mark Francis are continually looking for ways to make the plant more efficient and develop services that bring additional revenue to the plant. In recent years the plant has been fully automated with computer technology. Don Daley noted, "In an emergency, I could operate the plant from home on my laptop." Under Don's leadership, the plant has undergone a major expansion. HB Engineering of

Middleburg Heights was selected as the prime contractor to engineer the project, which increased the wastewater capacity of 7.5 to 11.25 mgd. Completed in 2003, the expansion was paid for by user fees, tap-in fees, and charges to septic haulers. One of Don's main goals is to avoid crisis management through forward thinking so as to anticipate and be prepared to deal with unexpected situations. To accomplish this Don has instituted a program of "cross-training," whereby employees are given the opportunity to learn how to do the jobs of other staff members if the needed arises.



Ricki Herdendorf (left) and Donnie Hammer (right) are shown a membrane filter by Don Daley (center) in the Filtration Building.

One of the newest innovations at the plant is *Industrial Pre-Treatment (IPT)*. From area industries, several tank trucks arrive daily carrying non-toxic wastes too chemically enriched to be flushed directly into the sewer system. At the IPT Building these wastes are processed under strict State regulations as to be rendered safe for regular treatment in the main plant. Some of the industrial waste contains high levels of phosphate, an unwanted nutrient that stimulates algal growth in streams and Lake Erie. The IPT facility removes the phosphate by treatment with ferrous chloride (FeCl_3), before the industrial wastewater is directed to the regular treatment process. Under the direction of IPT foreman Lou Cover, this new process earns from \$25,000 to \$38,000 a week in fees from user industries. The proximity of this new treatment option to Sheffield's business and industrial properties should place the Village in an advantageous position to attract new industry.

Another source of funds to offset some of the operating cost of the plant comes from fees charged to septic haulers. Across northern Lorain County some 19

companies, in business to pump out septic tanks in non-sewered regions of the County, bring their sewage to the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant for processing. Last year (2008), fees paid by the septic haulers amounted to \$489,000.

Sludge is an important by-product at the treatment plant where 20,000 tons (about 60,000 cubic yards) of material is produced annually. The sludge is suitable for many practical applications, such as garden mulch and soil conditioners. Large quantities of sludge from the plant are trucked to Huron County for agricultural purposes. Working with Ohio State University Professor Terry Logan, Don Daley has developed a liquid sludge product that has been applied to farm fields near Castalia, Ohio. Within the next several months a large building will be constructed at the west end of the facility site for storing sludge. Approval of this material as Class A [best classification for multiple uses] is now pending from the Ohio EPA. The building will also house a sludge bagging apparatus. This spring the plant plans to have 40-lb, bright yellow bags of sludge available free of charge to citizens of the participating communities.



Eddie Herdendorf (left) and Don Daley (right) inspect processed sludge as it is transported by conveyor belt from the Sludge Building.

Probably the most intriguing use of sludge is currently being worked on by Dr. Logan and Don Daley—*Green Fuel*. Well, maybe not really green in the color sense—more of an earthy brown! The concept is to pelletize the sludge to form an environmentally friendly fuel for electric power generating plants and commercial landscape nurseries. Pelletized sludge has been shown to ignite at 500°F, which makes it an ideal alternative fuel for local power plants that now burn sulfur-laden coal or landscape nurseries that burn corn.

Two Blokes from Sheffield, England

On October 8, 2009, two visitors from Sheffield, England toured our Sheffield, Ohio. Sam Schofield and Martyn Jones were school buddies. Sam is now a freelance journalist and Martyn has recently returned from two tours of duty with the British Army in Afghanistan. In August the pals tracked down six American towns all called Sheffield, presumably named after their beloved home city, and they decided to call in at all of them on a once-in-a-lifetime driving marathon that would take them from coast to coast. As Martyn drives their rented Ford Mustang, Sam makes notes on his laptop and posts them as blogs on a website each evening (www.blogstoday.co.uk/usroadtrippers.blog). Sam intends to write a book about their adventures when they return to England and has made arrangements to do a TV show about the trip [blog is short for weblog—an internet website on which an individual or group of users produces an ongoing narrative.] Here are some excerpts from Sam's blog about our Village:

Lunch with the Mayor

We survived the night in the small [Pennsylvania] town of, well, I have no idea—I still don't know the name of the place. It was creepy, the bar had around four locals in it, the food—a steak in my case, and a burger with everything in Martyn's—was good



Mayor John Hunter with English visitors Sam Schofield (left) and Martyn Jones (right).

and very reasonably priced, and we left as soon as first light shone through the curtains. The nice thing about setting off early in the day—except avoiding being chased out of town by yokels with pitch forks and shotguns (I exaggerate, of course)—is that we reached our next destination with loads of time to get out of the car and explore.

Sheffield Village, Ohio, was the only Sheffield on our journey that had replied to my pre-USA-arrival email.



Sheffield, England (red dot) is located in southern Yorkshire.

The mayor, John Hunter replied to my message saying: “Please let me know when you will be in Sheffield Village. We would like to show you around and have Tea Break.” So we did. We arrived at the Town Hall earlier than planned and so had to wait for the Mayor's arrival, but, after he got there, we had a fantastic morning. We were first taken around the Town Hall, shown photos from the early 1800s and maps of the village itself. The mayor, who has been in post for around 18 months, told us about his past, running a union, among many other things, during which time he visited the Houses of Parliament in the UK as well as met with every American president since Kennedy. His political credentials were impressive, to say the least.

He later took us to lunch at a bar called Gus', where we conversed about a variety of subjects, ranging from sanitation in Sheffield (who knows why) through to the popular local sports, life as a small town mayor, and a few bits and pieces on our own city. After this, a delightfully pleasant professor called Eddie Herdendorf, who is president of the historical society and has a vast bank of knowledge on the town stored in his head, gave us a guided tour. An Oceanographer—who teaches at Ohio State University, has traveled the world, had three deep sea creatures named after him, and has discovered a sunken treasure trove of gold—was born in Sheffield Village, which has a total population of just 4,000, so he now spends his time researching its history.

Eddie took us to one of the village's oldest buildings, where we learned of the plight of a number of slaves



Martyn and Sam at our Village Hall.

who tried to escape persecution. We then dropped by his ancestors' graveyard, which dates back to the early 1800s, before we swung by his house, which also dates back to around the same period. The gorgeous colonial building is situated on a farm, which had previously constituted of roughly 260 acres of land. Inside, the wooden floorboards and skirtings were all original, and propped against the wall was a case of ancient American Indian spear and arrowheads, which the professor had excavated from the area and stored in a case. Eventually, after three hours of tours and conversation, we had to shake hands and part ways.

Sheffields of the World

Our colleagues at the Sheffield Historical Society in the town of Sheffield, Massachusetts have been looking into the location and demography of other Sheffields throughout the world. The project was actually initiated by John Errington of Sheffield, Yorkshire, England—a high school science teacher who was named a Member of the Order of the British Empire by the Queen for his efforts in forging links between United Kingdom schools and those in the developing world. His plan is to set up a website where people—especially students—in each Sheffield can communicate, share ideas and concerns, and generally converse about what it means to live in a town called Sheffield. Errington calls it *The Great Sheffield Internet Discovery Expedition*. A recent Google search indicated that the website is not up and running yet, but the idea has inspired us to look into what’s happening in other Sheffields.

Our Massachusetts friends have kindly shared their information with the Sheffield Village Historical Society (Ohio), to which we have added some research of our own to compile the following article. As it turns out the total number of Sheffields now stands at over twenty. Among them 12 are in the United States (two in Texas—then again it’s a big state), two in Canada (Ontario and New Brunswick), as well as ones in Ireland, South Africa, Jamaica, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Japan. Our downeast friends think the last one may be somewhat of a fraud—they contend the name was changed from something with a more Japanese flavor to boost its exports, particularly of cutlery, by stamping them “Made in Sheffield.” Here is a brief look at the original Sheffield and the next 10 Sheffields to come along.

Sheffield No. 1—Yorkshire, England (the original Sheffield)

This city of some 525,000 inhabitants (1.2 million in the metro area) is 160 miles northwest of London. The city’s name is thought to be derived from the River Sheaf, as in “sheaf of grain.” Located in southern Yorkshire at the foot of the Pennine Chain—the backbone mountains of northern England—the Yorkshire Dales have been occupied by tribes since the last ice age. Later, both Anglo-Saxons and Danes settled here—the Viking influence is still seen in local place names (such as *Royd*, Norse for a clearing in the woods) and in the distinctive Yorkshire dialect.

Sheffield’s reputation as a producer of ironware, knives, silver plate, cutlery, and high-quality steel goes back to the 14th century. The city is noted for its “Sheffield Plate,” a clad plate made by rolling and fusing a thin covering of silver on either side of a copper sheet to yield a corrosion resistant sheath. Because of its iron and steel mills the city received

some of the harshest bombing during the *Blitz Krieg* of World War II. Once dominated by what was called “dark, satanic mills,” Sheffield has undergone revitalization and is now proud to have over 2,000,000 trees—more trees per person than any other city Europe. Over 60% of the city is now green space. The movie *The Full Monty* depicts the plight of Sheffield when the steel and coal industries waned in the late 20th century. The city is now experiencing a revival as a

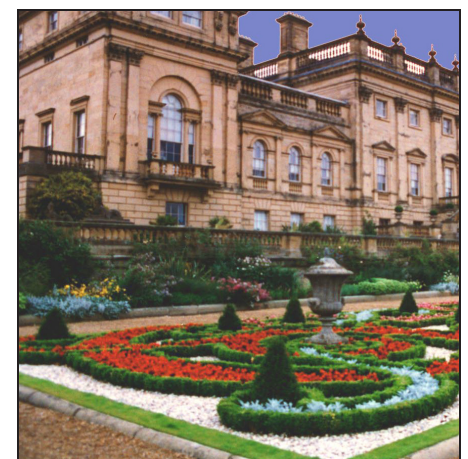


A brook flows through the Yorkshire Dales north of Sheffield, England.

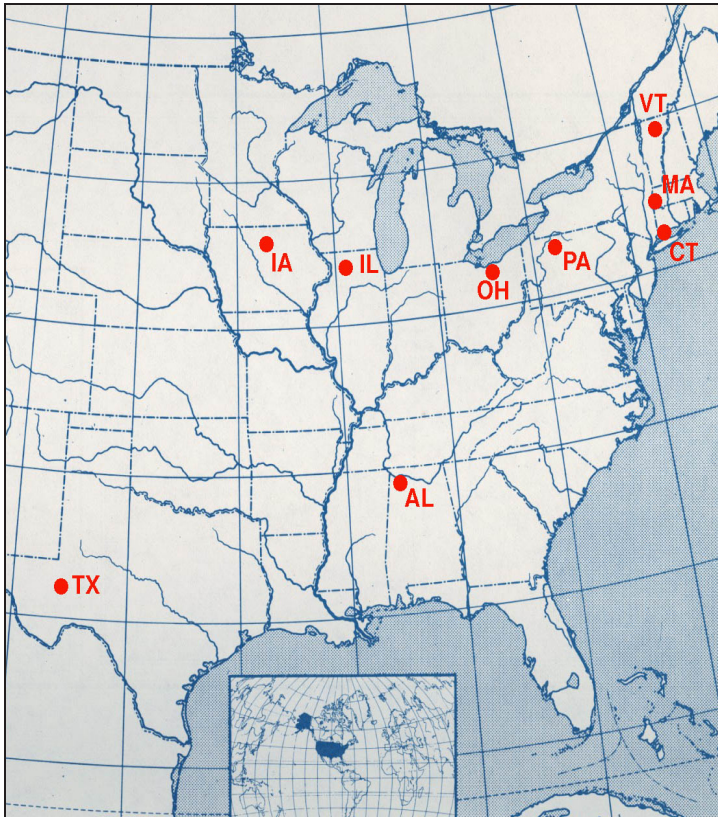
university town, with Sheffield University enjoying a major international reputation. Historic Harewood House and Gardens, built by John Carr in 1759, is located to the north of the city.



Heather in bloom on the Yorkshire Dales.



Yorkshire’s Harewood House Mansion and Gardens, located north of Sheffield, England.

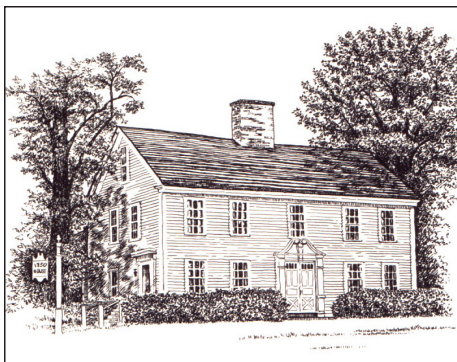


Sheffield's of the United States (map courtesy of Nystron & Co.).

Sheffield No. 2—Berkshire County, Massachusetts 01257

Founded in 1726 and chartered in 1733, Sheffield is the oldest town in the Berkshire Mountains region of western Massachusetts. The town is proud of its 3,470 inhabitants and 2,488 cows. Contrary to popular belief, the town was not named for some portly and gouty Earl or Duke of Sheffield, but more likely by early settlers who wanted to curry favor with the colonial governor who hailed from Sheffield No.1, and who may or may not have been fat and gouty. Sheffield was a training ground for patriot soldiers during the War for Independence, led by Col. Aaron Root. Some 30 years later his son, Henry Root, would journey west to be one of the founders of Sheffield, Ohio.

The first English settler to cross the "hideous howling wilderness" into Berkshire County was Matthew Noble of Westfield who arrived in 1725. The following spring



The 1750 House, Col. Aaron Root's home in Sheffield, Massachusetts (courtesy of the Sheffield Historical Society, MA).



Congregational Church, Sheffield Massachusetts, built in 1760 (courtesy of the Sheffield Historical Society, MA).

he returned to Westfield and brought his sixteen year old daughter, Hannah, to keep house for him. The township had been purchased from Chief Konkapot and other Stockbridge Indians in 1724. The purchase price was 460£, three barrels of cider, and thirty quarts of rum. It covered an area 18 miles by 12 miles centered on the Housatonic River. Other early settlers were Captain John Ashley, Ebenezer Pomeroy, William Day, Abraham Burrell, and Col. Aaron Root.

Sheffield, Massachusetts is a charming place to visit any season, but it is especially beautiful when the trees are filled with autumn color. As such this old agricultural community is now a resort town with numerous antique shops, historic inns, and pleasant B&Bs. The Appalachian Trail traverses the crest of the Berkshires to the west of town, treating the hiker to views of waterfalls and granite outcrops. This Sheffield, as well as several other Sheffields in Eastern and Midwestern states, is located on U.S. Route 6—an interesting coincidence or perhaps simply the result of the westward migration of settlers with an affiliation with the Berkshires.

Sheffield No. 3—Caledonia County, Vermont 05866

This small town of 727 residents is located in northeastern Vermont, about 15 miles north northwest of St. Johnsbury. The town lies at an elevation of 99 feet above sea level. The main industry is dairy products. The town was chartered in 1793. There is a long-standing claim that the town was named for Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. Since the records show no connection between the grantees and the English town, it probably can be assumed that it is not the direct source of the name. Just as likely, the name took a more roundabout route: the town of Sheffield in Berkshire County, Massachusetts is just over the state line from Salisbury, Connecticut, known to have been the home of many of the original grantees of and settlers in this Vermont town. Thus these towns in turn, may or may not have been named for the English town.

Sheffield No. 4—Lorain County, Ohio 44054

Our own Sheffield Village has some 4,106 inhabitants, but within the borders of the original 1807 Sheffield Township (Township No. 7 of Range 17 of the Connecticut Western Reserve), which has since been broken into 3 Sheffields (Lake, Township, and Village) and parts of east/south Lorain, some 30,000 citizens reside. Our neighboring City of Sheffield Lake (population 8,968) is located on U.S. Route 6 as it traverses the south shore of Lake Erie. For more details about the history of Ohio Sheffields see the article on the history of our Village in the June 2009 issue of *The Village Pioneer*, page 8.

Sheffield No. 5—Sheffield Island, Connecticut

Sheffield Island is located in Long Island Sound offshore from the city of Norwalk, Connecticut. In 1827, a lighthouse was built on 53-acre Sheffield Island to mark the dangerous ledges at the entrance to Norwalk's harbor. The original one-story stone keeper's cottage still stands, but the site of the first tower is now underwater. The first lighthouse had an unusual and intricate lighting system—10 lamps with parabolic reflectors were turned using a clockwork mechanism, producing alternating red and white flashes. This system was replaced by a fourth-order Fresnel lens in 1857. The first keeper was Gershom Smith, who

bought the island from his wife's father, Capt. Robert Sheffield. In 1818 Smith opened a hotel, or "house of entertainment," on Sheffield Island. Smith also raised cattle; the cows sometimes wandered to other islands at low tide. The Smith family lived on Sheffield Island for five generations. In the 1930s, an attempt was made to create a resort on Sheffield Island, with a golf course and tennis courts. The enterprise shut down in 1937 because of the lack of fresh water on the island. In 1991, archaeologist Karen Orawsky was working on historic site preservation on Sheffield Island. One day, as she approached the island in a boat, she heard "hypnotic and mystical" music coming from the island, with no apparent source. She also heard what seemed to be a foghorn where there was no foghorn, and distant cries for help. Some believe the music could be attributed to the spirit of Captain Robert Sheffield, who played an unusual instrument called the *long spell*—an oversized violin played with porcupine quills.

Sheffield No. 6—Bureau County, Illinois 61361

Located in on U.S. Route 6 in northwestern Illinois about 45 miles east of the Mississippi River at Rock Island, this Sheffield has a population of 957. Founded in 1852, this Sheffield is named after railroad engineer, Joseph Sheffield. This village is situated in an agricultural region where corn, soybeans, cattle, and hogs are the main commodities.

Sheffield No. 7—Warren County, Pennsylvania 16347

This town, also located on U.S. Route 6, is an enclave in the Allegheny National Forest in northwestern Pennsylvania. Founded in 1864, the population of this Sheffield is 1,268. The town lies on the West Branch of Tionesta Creek, with Allegheny Reservoir to the northeast and Hears Content Scenic Areas to the west of town. The main agricultural endeavor is livestock production. Manufacturing includes transportation equipment, corrugated boxes, and lumber from nearby timbering operations; oil and gas are produced to the north of the town.

Sheffield No. 8—Franklin County, Iowa 50475

Located in north central Iowa, this Sheffield is about 100 miles north of Des Moines, where U.S. Route 6 passes on its westward journey to San Francisco—thus deviating somewhat from the settlement pattern of the earlier Sheffields. The Iowa Sheffield has a population of 1,174 and was incorporated in 1876. Industry includes grain drying and handling equipment, brick and tile manufacturing from nearby clay and aggregate pits, and hybrid seed corn production. The first settlers arrived in 1854-55 and settled in a section known as Shobes Grove. Most of the original settlers came from New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. Land prices averaged \$40-\$50 per acre. Sheffield was founded in 1875 by C. C. Gilman, owner of the Eldora Railroad and Coal Company. It is assumed that Mr. Gilman named the town after an Eldora, Iowa resident, W. H. Sheffield, a long time friend. Gilman named one street for himself and one street after General Sherman of the Civil War. A frame depot was the first building put upon the town site. James Thompson built the first small frame house where he also displayed a stock of merchandise in his first store. The first hotel was built and operated in 1874. The *Sheffield Press* was established in 1880 by notable newspaperman, F. P. Morgan.

Sheffield No. 9—Colbert County, Alabama 35660

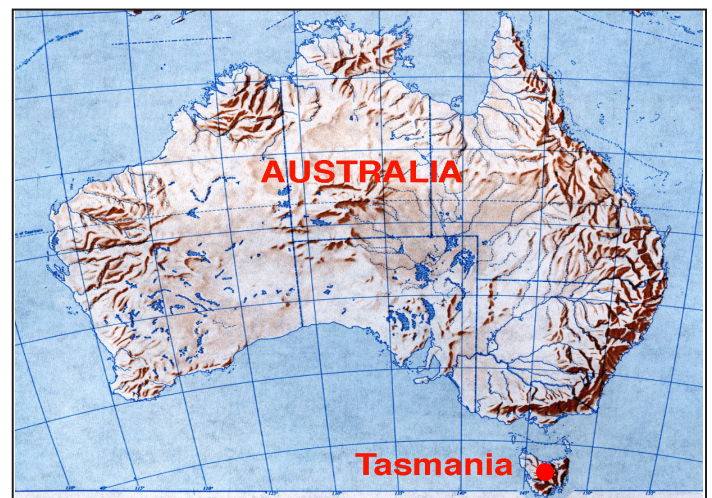
This Sheffield, founded in 1883, is perhaps the best-known in the world after Sheffield No. 1. Its fame stems from legendary Muscle Shoals recording studio where such artists as Aretha Franklin, Cher, Joe Cocker, Paul Simon, and The Rolling Stones have recorded. This city of 10,380 residents is located in northwestern Alabama on the Tennessee River. Like its British namesake, this Sheffield lies in an iron and coal region, giving rise to metalworking, aluminum manufacturing, and boat building. The construction of Wilson Dam in 1941 and the resulting hydroelectric power, a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) project, was the stimulus for the aluminum industry here.

Sheffield No. 10—Pecos County, Texas 79781

This Sheffield is located on the Edwards Plateau (High Plains) of West Texas on the banks of the Pecos River, about 200 miles northwest of San Antonio. Unlike most things in Texas, this small, unincorporated village only has a population of 600 residents. The village is a trading point for the surrounding cattle and sheep ranching region. Agricultural production also includes cotton, pecans, and vegetables. Fort Lancaster State Historic Site is located to the east.

Sheffield No. 11—Tasmania, Australia

This village of 992 inhabitants is located in north central Tasmania, about 10 miles south of the Bass Strait, which separates the island of Tasmania from the mainland of Australia. Sheffield is located 40 miles west of the major city of Launceston. The village, a dairying center for the region, is nestled in under Mount Roland in an area of rolling hills and gentle valleys which produce fat lambs, pigs, potatoes, timber and a number of vegetable crops. This Sheffield definitely claims to be named after the famous town in Yorkshire. The town is famous for its extensive display of murals. Several years ago this rural service town had a brainwave and successfully turned itself into a tourist destination. The brainwave was *murals* and consequently the town has huge and fascinating murals, most depicting the early history of the area, on every available blank wall.



Sheffield, on the island of Tasmania (map courtesy of Rand McNally).

St. Teresa Cemetery Book Published

For the past two years the Sheffield Village Historical Society has been working on a project to produce a complete map of St. Teresa Cemetery and compile a computerized database of the individuals interred therein. In September the project was completed with the publication of a 61-page book titled *Historic St. Teresa Cemetery 1853-2009: Historical Analysis and Information Database*. Copies of the

of the cemetery have survived, and the only map of the New Section is somewhat difficult to interpret.

Cemetery Map

With the objective of preparing a unified depiction of the entire cemetery, both Old and New Sections, a mapping project was initiated in 2007 by James A. Conrad and Charles E. & Ricki C. Herdendorf, with the help of Father Bob Franco and Debbie Wehler. The map was completed earlier this year and is available in the parish office. The map can also be viewed on the Internet by going to the website www.sheffieldvillage.com, then to Historical Society, and then to St. Teresa Cemetery Map.

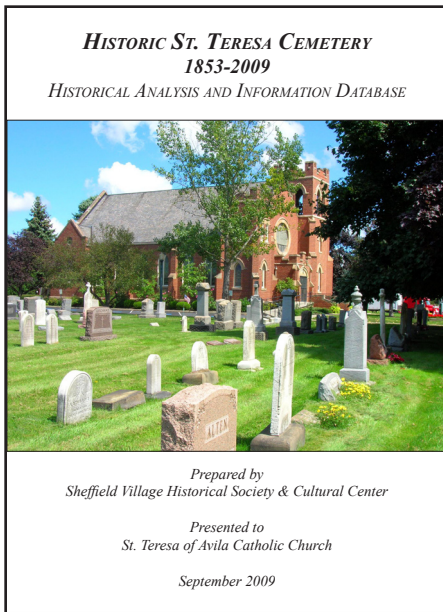
The map reveals a possible 1,323 burial sites in the cemetery. Records indicate that 585 are known to be occupied in the Old Section, 347 in the New Section, and 8 of uncertain location. This yields a total of 940 burials. Because several gravestones in the old cemetery are either missing or covered over, it is not possible to give an exact number. Some of the older stones have illegible inscriptions, which makes it impossible to map the location of all parishioners buried in the cemetery. Thus, of the 940 burials, the locations of 798 are known and mapped with some degree of certainty, while 142 locations are unknown, thus not depicted on the map.

Cemetery Database—Location Listing). The first step was to search the cemetery records in the parish office and compile an inventory of these records. Appendix C contains a summary of cemetery documents and files held in the St. Teresa parish office. This information was supplemented by census records, birth and death certificates, newspaper obituaries, and other sources, such as interviews with surviving relatives.

The database was compiled using an Excel® format, sorted alphabetically and by cemetery matrix location. The following information, where available, was entered in the database: (1) decedent name, (2) birth year, (3) death year, (4) age, (5) gender, (6) map section—Old or New, (7) cemetery row, (8) cemetery column, (9) birth date, (10) death date, (11) type of monument, and (12) monument inscription and additional information. The additional information column was used to enter a variety of data, including the decedent's (1) spouse(s), parents, siblings, children, and other relatives, (2) birth and death locations, (3) military service, and (4) cause of death.

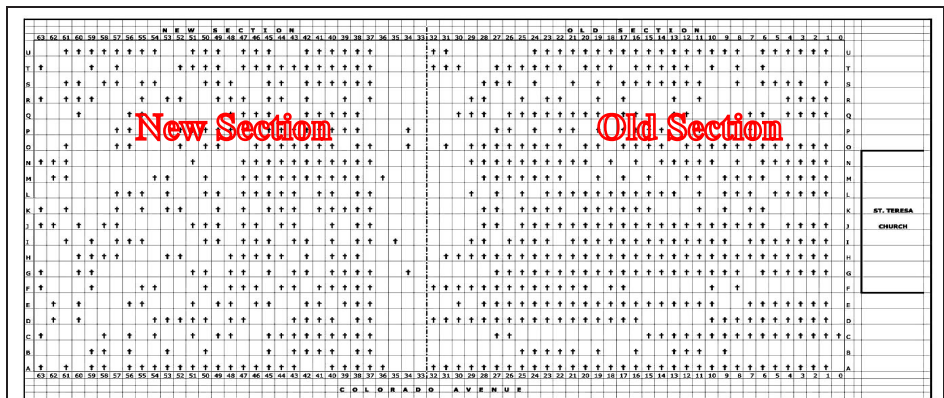
Cemetery Monuments

A variety of grave markers have been used over the years in St. Teresa Cemetery. These monuments are primarily composed of stone, but some metals have also been used. As of March 2009, a total of 772 graves were marked with 530 individual



book for public viewing were presented to the St. Teresa Church Parish Office, Garfield Cemetery Office at the Sheffield Village Hall, Mayor's Office at the Sheffield Village Municipal Complex, Library of the Lorain County Historical Society in Elyria, and Sheffield History Center of the Sheffield Village Historical Society on Detroit Road.

St. Teresa Cemetery is believed to have been established in 1853 with the burial of 4-year-old George Friedman in January of that year. However, the earliest cemetery records—recorded in Latin—show the first entry as 3-month-old Joseph Kihm, son of George and Margaritha [née Heider] Kihm, who died on May 25, 1854. To confuse the origin of the cemetery even further, Marian Quinn has uncovered information that Georg Sebastian Klingshirn, husband of Theresia Klingshirn, may have been buried in the churchyard in August 1849. In any event by the end of 1854, a total of 16 individuals are documented as having been interred in the church cemetery. Unfortunately no maps of the older portion



Outline map of St. Teresa Cemetery showing the matrix system for locating gravesites. Crosses indicate the location of known burials.

Cemetery Database

Concurrent with mapping the grave sites in the cemetery, an effort was undertaken to prepare a computerized database of cemetery records. The book contains two main appendixes—Appendix A (*Saint Teresa Cemetery Database—Alphabetic Listing*) & Appendix B (*Saint Teresa*

monuments. Granite (73%) and marble (24%) are the most common monument materials. Most of the early stones in the cemetery are composed of marble, but this material is not as durable as granite and many of the marble inscriptions are now illegible. Gray granite monuments outnumber pink granite ones at a ratio of about 2 to 1, while white marble and gray

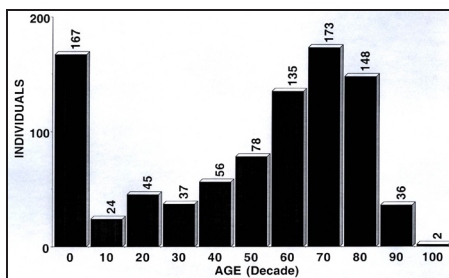
marble are nearly equal. Sandstone and metals account for only about 3% of the materials used for burial monuments.

Cemetery Demographics

Demography is the study of human population statistics such as gender, births, deaths, longevity, and causes of death, which illustrate the changing structure of the population. The St. Teresa database contains information on these statistical parameters and was used to produce the following demographic analysis.

Gender. Of the 940 individuals buried in the cemetery, the gender of 884 of these has been determined from examination of records and assumptions based on given names. A total of 474 (54%) of the burials are males and 410 (46%) are females.

Longevity. The age at death is known for 901 individuals in the cemetery. The highest incident of deaths occurred in individuals under the age of 10 (18.5%) and for those in their 70s (19.2%). Unfortunately, 105 infants died before reaching the age of 1 (11.6%), the highest single-year group in the cemetery. Next highest single-year age is 76 at 2.8%. The accompanying graph illustrates the age at death, in ten-year intervals.



Age at death in ten-year intervals for parishioners buried in St. Teresa Cemetery.

The average age of the males at death was 50.5 years, while the average female lived to an age of 57.2 years. The oldest males in the cemetery, Anton Jungbluth (1849-1947) and Frank Jambor (1901-1999), lived to an age of 97 years. The two oldest females, Jennie Rose Schmidt (1894-1999) and Maud F. Cunningham (1898-2000) lived for more than 100 years, 105 and 102, respectively. Interestingly, Maud Cunningham has the unique distinction of having lived in three successive centuries. The earliest born decedent is Ann Marie Rothgery (1783-1866). In terms of birth centuries, 10 decedents were born in the 1700s, 549 in the 1800s, 341 in the 1900s, and only 1 since 2000.

Jennie Rose Schmidt (1894-1999).

At 105 years old, Jennie Schmidt is the oldest person to have been buried in St. Teresa Cemetery. She was born in Sheffield Township on April 30, 1894, on her parents' farm (Nicholas and Rosa Ann [née Meyer] Schmidt) in the Black River valley. Later that year the farm was sold to the industrialist Tom Johnson and eventually became part U.S. Steel's National Tube Company and was annexed to the City of Lorain. The Schmidt family moved to another farm in Sheffield and Jennie attended the little red brick school that once stood at the corner of Abbe Road and Colorado Avenue before it was acquired by St. Teresa Church and enlarged as a parochial school. The school only taught students through the eighth grade. Taking a job as a domestic, she earned her high school diploma in night school and went on to further her education at the Elyria Business College. With her education complete she was able to secure a position in the offices of the Nickel Plate Railroad, where she worked for 40 years. Jennie never married but she traveled widely, enjoying her visits to Canada and Europe. She often referred to her 11 nieces and nephews as her children, as they were so close to her. Among them were Tom Schmidt, former Sheffield Lake Police Chief, and the late Jack Schmidt, professor of English and Drama at Lorain County Community College. Jennie Schmidt died on Friday, June 11, 1999, at Avon Oaks Nursing Home. On Monday June 14, Mass was held at St. Teresa of Avilla Church and burial was in the Cemetery at gravesite H-19 next to her sister Margaret (1886-1977) and one row north of her parents.

Maud Florence Cunningham (1898-2000).

Known as "Flo" to her friends, Maud F. Cunningham was one of those rare individuals that lives in three centuries. She was born in Stamford, Connecticut, the daughter of Anthony Palo who had emigrated from Naples, Italy. In 1921 she married John Joseph Cunningham, the son of an Irish emigrate. The couple moved to New Jersey where they had two children, Dorothy (1922) and John Joseph, Jr. (1924). John, Sr. was a Certified Public Account and during World War II, Maud worked in a General Electric munitions plant in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Maud was an avid reader and enjoyed sewing, making many of Dorothy's clothes. She was a small, but strong woman with a

gentle and retiring manor. When Maud's husband died in 1963 and was buried in the Cunningham Family Plot in Springdale, Connecticut, she moved to Sheffield Lake to live with her daughter, who had married John Hribar in 1948. John served with the U.S. Army Engineers Corps in the South Pacific during World War II. Using John's veteran's allowance, the newlyweds made a down payment on one of the first houses built on Warwick Drive, one of the few paved streets in Sheffield Lake at the time. It is here that Dorothy still lives and graciously welcomed the Editor to have a conversation about her mother. After living with the Hribars for a while, Maud moved into an apartment next to the Antlers Hotel in Lorain, as the house on Warwick Drive became rather crowded with the Hribar's four sons. At age 85, Maud began to show signs of dementia and spent the next 17 years at Avon Oaks Nursing Home. Dorothy credits Maud's longevity to the excellent care she received at Avon Oaks. Maud died at the age of 102 on March 24, 2000, and at her request she was buried in St. Teresa Cemetery, gravesite G-63, near the grave of her son-in-law John, who had died two years earlier.



Maud Cunningham at age 100 (seated) with her son-in-law and daughter, John and Dorothy Hribar in 1998 (courtesy of Dorothy Hribar).



Gray granite monument for Maud F. Cunningham (1898-2000). Maud was one of those rare people whose life touched on three centuries.

Society Organization

The Sheffield Village Historical Society is a charitable nonprofit 501(c)(3) and educational organization dedicated to discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, and presenting Sheffield's rich heritage.

Membership is open to anyone who wishes to support the Society's mission. Contact Eddie Herdendorf, President (440-934-1514 herdendorf@aol.com), Ron Forster, Vice President (440-949-7638 rforstersv@yahoo.com), or Patsy Hoag, Secretary (440-934-4624 patsyhoag@roadrunner.com) for more information.

Society journals and newsletters can be found on the Village of Sheffield, Ohio official website: www.sheffieldvillage.com (click on Sheffield Village Historical Society, then *The Village Pioneer* Newsletters, then download).

Page Layout is by Ricki C. Herdendorf, EcoSphere Associates, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

The collections of the Sheffield Village Historical Society are housed in the Sheffield History Center at 4944 Detroit Road. The Center is open to members and guests by appointment—please call (440-934-1514). Board of Trustees meetings are held in January, April, July, and October at the Sheffield History Center. Members and guests are welcome to attend these meetings.

Society members are encouraged to submit items for future issues. Please send your stories or ideas to the Editor.

Charles E. Herdendorf, Ph.D.
Newsletter Editor
Sheffield Village Historical Society
Garfield Farms, 4921 Detroit Road
Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054



***Ask Your Friends to Join the
Historical Society***



Decals Available

The Sheffield Village Historical Society is pleased to announce the creation of a new bumper sticker-type decal for the Society. The logo on the decal is based on a preliminary design approved by the Board of Trustees in July. Facilitated by Dennis Bryden, the original design was enhanced and printed by Tom Ott of Visual Expressions Sign Company, Lorain, Ohio. Decals are available from the Society Treasurer Ricki Herdendorf (934-1514) for a \$3.00 donation. We hope to see the Society's logo on many of the member's automobiles.

Save Your Campbell's® Labels

The Historical Society is still collecting labels from Campbell's® products for our educational programing. All you need to do is clip and save the UPCs or beverage caps from *Campbell's Labels for Education Products* and either send them to the Society or call Bobbie Sheets (277-6825) and she will have Leo pick them up. Thanks to those who have already sent some in! A special thanks goes to Members Paul & Sarah Crowl for submitting the most labels this past quarter.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SHEFFIELD VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Garfield Farms—4921 Detroit Road, Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054—(440)-934-1514

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

- Individual (\$10.00/year)
 Family (\$15.00/year)—2 Adults & children under 18 years old
 Business/Corporate & Organization (\$25.00/year)

Family Members (for Membership Cards) _____

Special Interests in Sheffield History? _____