



## **BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN No. 13** **—Sheffield Celebrates 200th Birthday**

The Sheffield Bicentennial Commission will issue a *Bicentennial Bulletin* each Monday throughout 2015 that illustrates the rich heritage of our communities. **View them at — [www.sheffieldbicentennial.org](http://www.sheffieldbicentennial.org) or [sheffieldvillage.com](http://sheffieldvillage.com)**

### **LAKE BREEZE HOUSE (built 1873—Sheffield Lake’s first resort hotel)** **4233 Lake Road, Sheffield Lake, Ohio**

*Lake Breeze House in 1873*

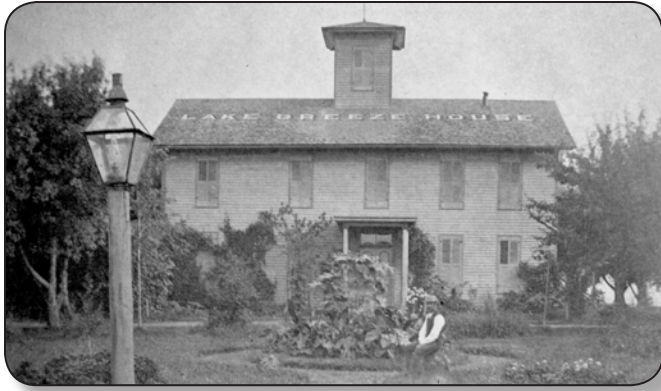
In 1863 Jay Terrell (1827-1904) and his wife, Etna Eizabeth [Park] Terrell purchased 55 acres of property on the Lake Erie shore from Daniel Gawn and began to construct a hotel. Jay Terrell was born in Ridgeville Township and his wife in Avon Township. In 1873 they opened the *Lake Breeze House*, Sheffield’s first hotel. The hotel, situated on Lot 40, was described as “upon the bank of, and overlooking the blue waters of Lake Erie.” In connection with the hotel, the proprietors operated a number of cottages and kept pleasure boats for the use of guests.

An article in the July 14, 1875 issue of *The Elyria Independent Democrat* described the hotel in this way, “Mr. Jay Terrell’s *Lake Breeze House* on the Lake Shore, is fast becoming a favorite summer resort for foreign visitors. He is a man who knows just how to please his guests, and all who visit this delightful retreat are sure to go again. This is one of the pleasantest places on the beach, to pass away a day or a week, and we advise those who have not already visited the *Lake Breeze House* to make a trip there.”

Jay and Etna Terrell had seven children, one of whom was a noteworthy architect. Elah Terrell (1851-1884) designed several important buildings in Sheffield and other communities in Lorain County, as well as in Columbus, Ohio. Locally, he was the architect of the Italianate-style William Day House (built 1879) on East River Road and the Queen Anne-style Sheffield Village Hall (built 1883) on Detroit Road.



Lake Breeze House in the 1880s



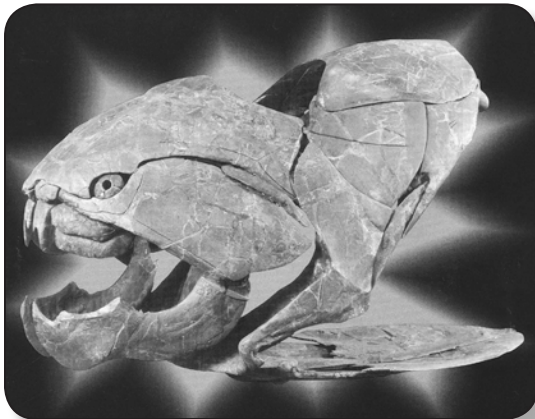
Beach cottages at Lake Breeze House



Jay Terrell was an avid fossil collector and scoured the shale banks in the vicinity of the hotel for prehistoric marine life. In the late 1860s he discovered armor plates of an ancient fish in the lake's shale cliffs. The fish lived 375 million years ago in the Devonian Sea that once covered Ohio. He presented the specimens to Dr. John Newberry of the Ohio Geological Survey. In 1874, Dr. Newberry published a monograph on the fossils, naming the new species of fish in the discoverer's honor, *Dinichthys terrelli*. Years later the genus name was changed to *Dunkelosteus*, but the species name remains *terrelli*. This primitive, armored fish belongs to a group known as placoderms.

In the early 1880s Lake Breeze House was acquired by Mark Z. Lampman. *The Elyria Republican* carried this note in the June 18, 1885 issue, "We are informed that the season at Lake Breeze House will open on June 20<sup>th</sup>; on and after which date M. Z. Lampman, proprietor, will be ready to receive his old friends, and make new acquaintances. Lake Breeze is a cool, delightful place; good bathing, boating, fishing and hunting [the property also included some 70 acres of undeveloped land south of the lake for hunting], and is becoming justly popular amongst a nice class of summer pleasure seekers."

Reconstructed *Dunkelosteus terrelli*



Dr. B. W. Donaldson, in his 1951 book, *Thoughts on Lorain, Ohio*, describes an event he witnessed at Lake Breeze House in 1900: "A niece of Mr. Arthur J. Moxham [President of Johnson Steel Company], Miss Kate D. Moxham from

Louisville, Kentucky, swam straight out from shore at Lake Breeze until she was completely out of sight from those watching from the bank. Finally she reappeared and swam in; I have never seen this fete performed by anyone else, and neither have I heard of anyone doing such a stunt, either man or woman. The young girl probably did not know of the danger of swimming alone and in the colder water of Lake Erie. We all thought she would be drowned."

Mark Lampman died in 1888 and the Lake Breeze House continued to operate for at least 15 more years. The Tax Map of 1896 shows D. D. Lewis as owner of the property. The November 6, 1903 issue of *The Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* contained this notice, "LAKE BREEZE SOLD. The Redington Realty Co. has bought the Lake Breeze hotel property with 70 acres of land for \$18,000." The Tax Map of 1915 indicates that the Cleveland Beach Addition had title to the hotel property, but the longevity of the Lake Breeze House is unknown.