



BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN No. 37 ***—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 or sheffieldvillage.com**

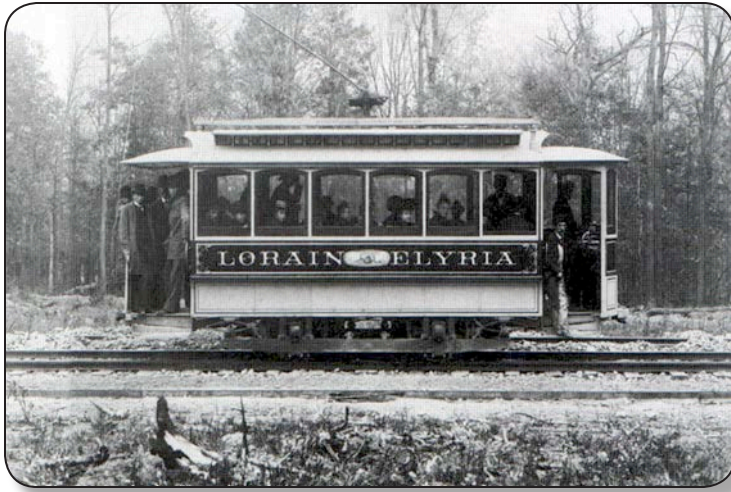
Vincent Methodist Church — (built 1910 at Yellow Line Trolley Stop No. 7) 2283 North Ridge Road, Sheffield Township, Ohio

*T*his Queen Anne/Vernacular-style country church was constructed in 1910 a short distance east of Stop No. 7 on the “Yellow Line” trolley streetcar tracks that provided service between Lorain and Elyria. Horse sheds can be seen behind the church in the lower view. Vincent Methodist Church was reformed as Cornerstone United Methodist Church and the congregation moved to West River Road in Elyria. The building was then used a nursery school by the Clearview School District. Now the old building serves as the Faith House Day Care Center.

Vincent Methodist Church (circa 1910)



Yellow Line street car near Stop No. 7 (circa 1895)



Vincent Methodist Church was founded in the spring of 1897. An article in the October 23, 1937 addition of the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* mentions a legend that the organization of the church was brought about to honor the death of a child in the neighborhood. But it may also have its origins in the spiritual needs of the growing community that developed adjacent to Stop No. 7 on the Lorain-Elyria Electric Railway's *Yellow Line*. The line was built in 1894 to carry workers to and from the Johnson Steel Company on the Black River.

The need for a church in Vincent was first brought to the attention of the ministry in 1897 by Rev. J. F. Burke of Lorain, when he was called to the community to officiate a the funeral of child whose parents had known the young minister when they lived in Lorain. While there, Rev. Burke inquired as to whether there was a church in the neighborhood. He was told that there was not, but that there was a Sunday school being conducted in Sheffield Township District No. 8 School on West River Road [later Markley School]. He immediately made plans to hold a service after the Sunday school session the next Sunday.

In August of 1897, at a community picnic held at Lake Erie, 20 persons signed as charter members of Vincent Methodist Church, giving their time and money to erect a church on a quarter acre of land donated by George Fleming. On Christmas Day, Sunday 25, 1897, the new church was dedicated. Dr. Mitchell, a Methodist minister from Cleveland, gave the dedication address. George Fleming was the father of Pearl Fleming who married William Milton Garfield. George Fleming and William Garfield are buried in Garfield Cemetery.

Several years later, land adjoining the church was purchased for a parsonage. The church building was also enlarged by the addition of a large Sunday school room. The basement, containing three utility and storage rooms, was also completed. During the pastorate of Rev. G. W. Howk in 1920, the members of the Progressive Class installed a large modern furnace to replace a "round oak" heating stove.

Faith House Day Care Center adjacent to Vincent School (2014)



During the 40-year period from when Rev. Burke organized the church in 1897 to 1937, a total of 19 successors served as pastor. The longest term was served by Rev. Howk from 1917 to 1924. In 1937, Rev. Theodore Paul was pastor, while at the same time serving as pastor of Avon Methodist Church. After over 70 years of serving the people in the vicinity of Vincent, a new church was built less than a mile away on West River Road in Elyria.