



BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN No. 44 **—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**

SAINT TERESA SCHOOL

(built as a public school—converted to a parochial school)
Abbe Road, Sheffield Village, Ohio

A small log school served the German Catholic population of Sheffield for a few years around 1845 with Peter Laux as teacher. The building is believed to have been located near the present Parish House. By 1874 it was replaced by a Township-owned, wood-frame school located on Abbe Road south of French Creek. Although a public school, it continued to serve the predominantly German population surrounding the school.

*Sheffield Township District
Schoolhouse No. 7, built 1880*



In the latter part of the nineteenth century, Sheffield Township constructed eight red-brick schoolhouses located throughout Sheffield Township—one at Sheffield Center and another at North Ridge in the Village, three along the Lake Erie shore in Sheffield Lake, two west of the Black River in the Township, and one on Abbe

*Stone marker for Sheffield Township
District Schoolhouse No. 7*



Road north of French Creek. At that time the population of the Township was approximately 1,000. The eight schools were attended by 286 students and were collectively valued at \$7,000.

Schoolhouse No. 7. From its very beginning this school served the Catholic community of that part of the Township. With the knowledge and approval of the Township School Board, lay teachers, the priest, and sisters taught classes at the school, operating it much as a parochial school.

In 1921 Sheffield Township voters supported a bond issue for \$180,000 to centralize education by building three new schools to replace the eight one-room buildings scattered throughout the district. By 1923, Brookside, Highland [later Clearview], and Vincent Schools were opened for the lower grades (1 through 8) and students were transported by a fleet of buses.

In 1924, with the old District Schoolhouse No. 7 decommissioned when Brookside School opened in 1923, Saint Teresa parish purchased the idle building for \$100. The building was enlarged to accommodate two classrooms and was formally dedicated as Saint Teresa School in 1927 with an enrollment of 64 pupils. A new wing containing two additional classrooms was added in 1952. By 1955 the student population reached 220, nearly double the intended capacity of the building. Because about 60% of the school children were from Sheffield Lake, a site for a new parochial school was selected there in 1956—Saint Thomas School on Harris Road.

*Saint Teresa dedication
cornerstone, 1927*



*Legendary Saint Teresa
teacher,
Sister Mary Blandine, 1953*



Saint Teresa School students, 1924



Saint Teresa graduating class, 1925



Saint Teresa School in 1927



Saint Teresa students, 1946



St. Teresa School, July 1987



Saint Teresa School being burned as Gladys Wisnieski looks on sadly, August 1987



Saint Teresa School's attendance declined when children began attending Saint Thomas School and the decision to close the school came in 1967. After sitting idle for two decades, Saint Teresa School was razed to make way for a parking lot.

In August 1987 the Sheffield Village Fire Department conducted a controlled burn and the building was leveled. The 1880 marker and 1927 cornerstone were saved and placed along the east drive of Saint Teresa Cemetery. The Saint Thomas School building is still standing, but that school is now also closed.