

# THE VILLAGE PIONEER

Newsletter of the Sheffield Village Historical Society & Cultural Center



## *Holiday Greetings from the Sheffield Village Historical Society*



*Milton Garfield House—selected as December 2008 entry for the North Coast Calendar, published by First Federal Savings of Lorain.*



**A**s we enter this Holiday Season, the Board of Trustees and Officers of the Sheffield Village Historical Society wish you and your families warm Seasons Greetings and best wishes for the New Year. We can all be proud of our Village and continue working to preserve its heritage. This December marks the completion of the first full year of operation for the Sheffield Village Historical Society. Thus, the 176 members who joined the Society in 2006 and 2007 are considered Charter Members and are recognized later in this newsletter. The Board of Trustees is extremely gratified that so many people share our desire to preserve and honor the heritage of our Village and to take pride in Sheffield. We are also pleased that the Society has been able to accomplish a number of important tasks in our short history. Milestones in our progress toward building an effective organization which serves our community include:

1. Orchestrate the preservation of the Civil War era **Daniel Garfield Barn** by relocating it from a development site on Detroit Road to a farm on French Creek Road (February 2006)
2. Arrange a **Scenic Byways Tour** of seven historic sites in Sheffield, Sheffield Lake, Avon, and Avon Lake (September 2006) and **Village Hall Open House & Garfield Cemetery Tour** (June 2007)
3. Remap and prepare a computerized database of historic **Garfield Cemetery** (September 2006)
4. Obtain an authentic **1880s bell** to replace the one missing from the Village Hall bell tower and presenting it to the Village Council (November 2006)
5. Inaugurate an award-winning full-color newsletter for the Society, **The Village Pioneer** (December 2006) and publish quarterly issues
6. Reorganize, box, and compile an inventory of **official Village records** archived at the Sheffield Village Hall (January 2007)
7. Facilitate designation of Detroit Road through the Village as the **North Ridge Scenic Byway** by ODOT (September 2007)
8. Submit a draft ordinance to Village Council creating a **North Ridge Historic District** designed to preserve the historic integrity along Detroit Road (October 2007)
9. Receive an **Excellence Award** from the Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums for our **Sheffield History Outreach** efforts (September 2007)
10. Establish a Board of Trustees & Officers of the Society (July 2006), adopt **Constitution & Bylaws** for the Society (October 2007), and open the **Sheffield History Center** as headquarters for the Society (October 2007).

## *Sheffield History Center Dedicated*

The Sheffield Village Historical Society dedicated its new Sheffield History Center at 4944 Detroit Road on October 11, 2007. Society members and guests attended the celebration event which included an open house, tour of the center, exhibits, and refreshments prepared by Society Board members. Following an hour of lively social gathering, Society President Eddie Herdendorf welcomed the more than 60 attendees and presented brief dedication remarks. Dr. Herdendorf explained that the purpose of the Sheffield History Center was to establish a place where historical documents, photographs, and artifacts which highlight Sheffield's rich heritage can be archived and preserved for future generations to appreciate. He said "the Center will serve as a meeting place for various cultural and civic functions, as well as a place for members and guests to explore the history of our Village." He also displayed one of the colorful Ohio Byway signs that are now being posted along Detroit Road by the Ohio Department of Transportation to designate the new North Ridge Scenic Byway and mentioned the importance of establishing a North Ridge Historic District to preserve the scenic beauty and historic heritage along this corridor.



*Sheffield History Center—4944 Detroit Road.*

Dr. Herdendorf then introduced the speakers of the program, Ron Sauer, Curator of the Amherst Historical Society and Matt Nahorn, Director of the New Indian Ridge Museum. These gentlemen presented a fascinating program titled, *The Old & New Indian Ridge Museums*. Their topic focused on the museum Col. Raymond Vietzen

operated on West Ridge Road in Elyria from 1930 until his death in 1995. Ron Sauer worked as an assistant to Col. Vietzen in the latter years. When Col. Vietzen died, the museum was dismantled and over a million artifacts were sold at auction—some of which were from archaeological excavations in Sheffield Village. Matt Nahorn, a senior at



North Ridge Scenic Byway sign.

Lake Ridge Academy, is actively re-creating some of the Vietzen exhibits plus many other fascinating artifacts in his New Indian Ridge Museum in the historic Jacob Shupe Homestead (circa 1816) on Cooper Foster Park Road in Amherst. Ron showed a number of color slides of the old museum buildings and the bountiful collections made by Col. Vietzen, including a rawhide jacket worn by General Custer at the battle of the Little Big Horn. Matt continued the program by showing slides of the new museum—several depicting artifacts that he and Ron recovered from the original Col. Vietzen collections, as well as historic and archaeological items

excavated by Matt himself. The new museum is open by appointment during the summer months. Like Col. Vietzen, both Ron and Matt are certified Kentucky Colonels and both are members of the Sheffield Village Historical Society. The Society thanks them both for an excellent and entertaining program—the beginning of what we hope will be a meaningful series of seminars to be held at the Center.

Following the program, the Board of Trustees assembled for their fall quarterly meeting. Leo Sheets, membership committee

chairman, reported that as of October 10, 2007 the Society had 157 members, including six business/organization memberships. He is working to expand memberships among the commercial establishments in the Village. A significant step in organizing the Society was taken by the Board in ratifying a Constitution and a set of Bylaws. The next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on January 10, 2008 at the Sheffield History Center. Board of Trustees meetings are open to all Society members and their input is welcomed and appreciated.



Sheffield Village Historical Society Board of Trustees meeting—October 11, 2007.

## *Sheffield Village Historical Society Receives Excellence Award*

The Ohio Association of Historical Societies & Museums presented the Sheffield Village Historical Society with its Excellence Award for History Outreach at the Association’s annual conference at the Ohio History Center in Columbus on September 29, 2007. President Eddie Herdendorf, and Treasurer Ricki Herdendorf accepted the award on behalf of the Society. Dr. Herdendorf thanked the Association for the award and expressed his appreciation of the efforts put forth by the Society’s Board of Trustees and the Society members to preserve the rich heritage of Sheffield Village. The key elements in granting the award were the Society’s outstanding newsletter, *The Village Pioneer*, and the work of the Society to obtain a North Ridge Scenic Byway designation for State Route 254 throughout Lorain County.





## *Brookside Class of 1957 Holds 50th Anniversary Reunion*

The Brookside High School class of 1957 held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion October 4-6, 2007. Of the 41 students in the 1957 graduating class, 27 returned to Sheffield to celebrate with their classmates. The reunion started on Thursday with a cruise on the Cuyahoga River and Cleveland's Lake Erie shorefront aboard Captain Wayne Bratton's boat *Holiday*. Twenty-nine class members and their spouses enjoyed a sunny afternoon and luncheon as Captain Bratton described the history of the river, harbor, and lake.

On Friday, Historical Society President and member of the 1957 class, Eddie Herdendorf and his wife Ricki, hosted a Fish Fry for the class at Garfield Farms in Sheffield Village before the football game between Brookside and Keystone. The senior year for this class saw the end of 6-man football and the initiation of 11-man teams at Brookside and many of the other schools in Lorain County. To celebrate this event, members of the first 11-man team and Coach Dick Sevits were also invited to the Fish Fry and the football game, bringing attendance to 55. Before the game the members of the first 11-man team and the cheerleaders from that year were honored by being announced as they paraded in front of the stands behind Coach Sevits, his wife Eleanore, and two current Brookside cheerleaders in Eddie Herdendorf's 1977 Mercedes 450SL convertible. Following the game, class members assembled at the Sheffield History Center for a bonfire as they reminisced about school days and shared what they had been doing for the past 50 years.

Saturday began with a tour of the Sheffield Middle School (Brookside High School in 1957)—several of the class members had attended all 12 years of their public education in this building—followed by visits to the new Brookside High School and the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City School District administration building. Following the school tours, class members assembled at the Sheffield History Center for a seminar and group discussion led by classmate Dr. Robert Sinclair, Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Massachusetts, titled, *The Value of a Brookside Education*. Dr.



*Brookside Class of 1957 and spouses tour the High School.*

Sinclair was introduced by classmate Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf, Professor Emeritus of Geological Sciences at The Ohio State University. The seminar explored how learning takes place in a democratic society in comparison to a totalitarian environment. Class members reminisced about their own educational experiences and considered how those experiences prepared them for their future careers. Based on the successes of the graduates, the assessment of the education received was positive in many respects.

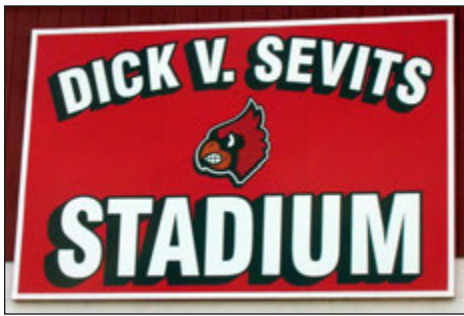
The main event of the reunion took place Saturday evening at the Westlake Holiday

Inn. Fifty—class members, spouses, and Coach Dick Sevits and his wife—gathered for a banquet filled with good fellowship. The dessert cake's frosting featured the 1957 newspaper photograph of the graduating class in caps & gowns. Following the dinner Jack Hoag, class Vice-President, welcomed the guests and introduced Eddie Herdendorf, who presented a PowerPoint show tracing the history of the class from first grade to graduation. Carol (Scott) Scharmann, principle organizer of the event, distributed booklets she had compiled describing the life experiences of the class members, including



*1957 classmates relived Brookside band practice.*



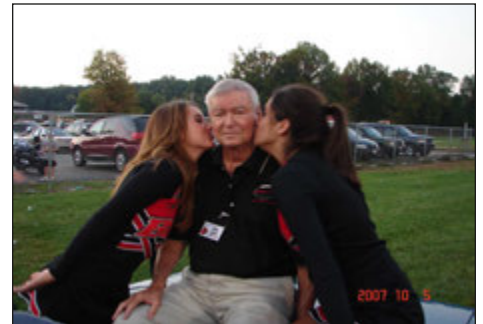


color photographs that had been sent to her. Denny Davis, class photographer, captured the reunion planning process and all of the reunion events on over 900 digital images that he compiled on a DVD for everyone in the class. Class members and spouses attending the event included: Neal & Lori Alston, Ben Dombrowski, Judy (Izold) & Phil Bruder, Denny & Judy Davis, Bill & Sue DeChant, Charlie & Dolly Evans, Eileen (Schmitz) & Larry Faulkner, Fern (McFarland) & Jim Gallagher, Lois (Allen) Grant, Irene (Bring) & Dave Griffith, Cathy (Altieri) & Tony Hausfeld, Eddie & Ricki Herdendorf, Jack & Patsy Hoag, Ralph Hoffstetter, Diane (Swilik) & Phil Lener, John & Pat (Ferguson) Little, Larry & Roseann Lumpkin, Dan & Margie Malloy, Jackie (Miller) & James McClung, Carol (Day) & Andy Minda, Ken & Joanne Nehls, Chris (Pratt) & Carl Neuber, Gus & Ruth Scarpelli, Carol (Scott) & Fred Scharmann, Bobby Sinclair, Bernice (Daniels) & Dave Wargo, and Carl Wilkerson.



*Coach Dick Sevits and Brookside's first 11-man football team at the October 5, 2007 game.*

The reunion planning committee held a final get together on November 9—a Clam Bake at the Garfield Farms barn—to celebrate the success of the reunion and to celebrate the birthday of Judy, the wife of Denny Davis. Recognizing that it was such fun reconnecting with former classmates, the committee unanimously decided to continue to plan future events and get together socially with as many of the class as possible. After all the reunion bills were paid, enough money was left to make a \$100 donation each to the Brookside Band Boosters and the Brookside Athletic Boosters.



*Cheerleaders Liz Carrek and Heather Kendrick congratulate Coach Sevits.*



*Class of 1957 as Brookside first graders.*



*Class of 1957 senior trip to Washington, D.C.*



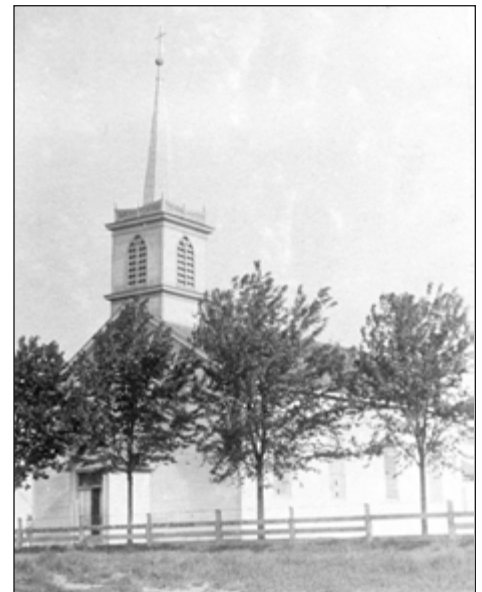
## *St. Teresa Parish Celebrates 100 Years of Worship in Historic Church*



*Christmas celebration in St. Teresa Church (1982).*

Christmas Day 2007 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the first mass celebrated in the new St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church on December 25, 1907. On Sunday, March 3, 1907, a sweeping fire destroyed the old wood-frame church, built in the 1850s, that once stood on the site of the present sanctuary. Dan Gillotti and Cindi Conrad, writing in the Sesquicentennial Celebration Book of St. Teresa Parish (1845-1995), note that the fire was started by a hot stove in the boy's sacristy just as the announcements were being made during the 11 a.m. High Mass. Strong winds on that day quickly spread the flames. At once the parishioners worked to save the furniture and vestments; everything moveable was taken out of the church including the old pews and the organ. They witnessed the entire event in shock and horror, especially when the two bells, with a combined weight of 2,150 pounds, crashed to the ground from the belfry. In 90 minutes the church was reduced to a pile of ashes and rubble and the bells had cracked from the fall and intense heat of the fire.

Dismayed by the loss of their church, but undaunted, the parish community quickly rallied together. Fortified with the same determination their ancestors displayed when they carved Sheffield Township out of the wilderness of the Western Reserve, they formulated a plan to build a new brick church that could hold 250 worshipers. The plan was approved by the Bishop, and the cornerstone for a Gothic-style brick church with sandstone trim was laid on March 19, 1907, scarcely two weeks after the fire had cooled. The red bricks were kilned near the church. Externally, the building measured 40 x 74 feet. Between two towers the structure rose to a gabled roof surmounted by a Latin cross. The large square tower at the southeast corner housed two new bells purchased to replace those ruined by the fire. The smaller bell (660 lbs) was cast with the name "St. Anne" while the larger bell (900 lbs) was cast with the name "St. Joseph" on it. These bells were made in St. Louis, Missouri, by the Hy Stuckestede Bell and Foundry, the same company who had cast the destroyed bells. The beautiful Main and Side Altars were constructed by John Burkhart, an uncle to Leroy Conrad. They were built in the Ziegman Barn, placed in the sanctuary, and painted white with gold trim. The pipe organ salvaged from the fire was installed in the choir loft at the rear of the new church. The construction progressed rapidly throughout the summer and autumn—first under the watchful eye of the parish pastor Fr France J. Pfyl and later Fr Adam

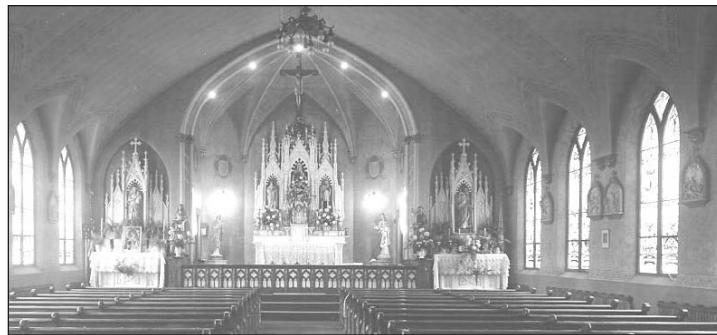


*Old wood-frame St. Teresa Church (1893).*





Postcard of St. Teresa Parsonage and Church (1909).



St. Teresa altar (1945).

## St. Teresa Cemetery Project

The Sheffield Village Historical Society has initiated a project to map St. Teresa Cemetery and prepare a computerized database similar to the one completed for Garfield Cemetery in 2006. James Conrad painstakingly transcribed all of the legible gravestone inscriptions in both the old and new sections of the cemetery. Next, Eddie and Ricki Herdendorf prepared an inventory of all St. Teresa Cemetery parish records with guidance from Parish Pastor Fr Robert Franco and Parish Secretary Debbie Wehler. The inventory led to the next step, organizing the various types of records and other cemetery information into discrete files for easy access. Over the next several months this information will be entered into a computerized database. An up-to-date map exists for the new section of the cemetery, but one could not be located for the old section. The process of constructing such a map has begun, including the determination of the type of stone or other material used to make the grave markers. Anyone with information concerning the cemetery and the parishioners buried there, especially obituaries for those buried in the old section, is kindly asked to contact the Historical Society at 934-1514. The project is scheduled for completion in 2008. Photographs for the St. Teresa articles graciously supplied by Dan Gillotti, Fr Robert Franco, and Ricki Herdendorf.

Senger who replaced him in June. Finally on Christmas Day 1907, a standing-room-only crowd witnessed the first mass celebrated in the new church.

On October 15, 1908, Pastor Fr Senger and his Excellency Bishop Joseph M. Koudelka celebrated the Dedication mass. The Bishop delivered a sermon in German and extended his gratitude to the parishioners for their sacrifice and generosity in building such a beautiful shrine. From the ashes of despair, hope had sprung eternal as the parishioners admired their new house of worship. In testament to the dedication of the parishioners, it is worth noting that on the day the church was dedicated, the construction bill for \$11,800 was completely paid. This Christmas, Fr Robert Franco will commemorate the 100 years of worship that have taken place in the beautiful sanctuary of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church.



Aerial view of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Parsonage, Cemetery, and the Parish Life Center (Avila Hall) in 2007.



## *Sheffield Village's First Mayor* *Clyde B. McAllister*

This coming January, John D. Hunter will take office as the eleventh person to serve as the mayor of the Village of Sheffield. We wish John great success in leading us forward and in coping with the problems of a community in the throes of transition from a farming village to a modern residential town with thriving commercial centers. But what of our first mayor, Clyde B. McAllister—how did he cope with the daunting task of creating a new village back in 1934?

In the 1930s and 1940s, Village mayors were elected to only 2-year terms, rather than the current 4-year terms. Clyde McAllister was elected to seven terms as Village Mayor, serving in this capacity from 1933 to 1947. On his death in 1955, the then sitting Mayor, Paul W. Poor, and Village Council prepared the following resolution to honor Clyde McAllister. The wording of the resolution exhibits the high regard the Village had for the man and his many years of dedicated service:

### RESOLUTION NO. 90

#### *A Resolution Memorializing the Life and Death of Clyde Bernard McAllister*

*Clyde Bernard McAllister was born on March 2, 1885 at Millersport, Columbiana County, Ohio, where he resided until he was ten years of age when he moved with his parents to the Township, later the Village of Avon, Lorain County, Ohio. He resided in the southwestern part of Avon Village until 1929 when he moved to North Ridge Road, also known as Detroit Road, in the Village of Sheffield Lake, Lorain County, Ohio.*

*In 1933, he assisted in the detachment of that portion of Sheffield Lake, which a few weeks later was incorporated in a new Village, now known as Sheffield, Brookside Township, Lorain County, Ohio. There he continued to live until his death on January 10, 1955, spending the winters in Florida during the last few years of his life, his death occurring at Daytona Beach, Florida.*

*He left surviving him, his widow, Louise E. McAllister and two sons, Walter B. McAllister and Kenneth J. McAllister; both residents, together with their families, of the Village of Sheffield, Lorain County, Ohio.*

*Clyde B. McAllister was elected Mayor of the Village of Sheffield upon its incorporation in 1933 and served continuously as Mayor of that Village for the ensuing 12 years. He was the leader of that active group of prominent citizens who joined together to incorporate the present Village of Sheffield. In addition to his farming and gardening business, he was active in all of the worthwhile enterprises in the Village and established a wide acquaintanceship throughout the Village and surrounding territory. The enterprising and growing Village of Sheffield is in considerable part the result of his activities on behalf of the Village.*

*His funeral services were largely attended on January 15, 1955, at St. Teresa's Church, Sheffield, Ohio.*

*With these facts briefly reviewed; BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Village of Sheffield, State of Ohio: That in the death of Clyde B. McAllister, former Mayor and prominent citizen, this Village has suffered a most serious loss. His wise council and advice in public affairs, frequently sought, will be greatly missed. His friendly and genial personality will long be remembered and the members of the Council, together with the Mayor and all other officials of the Village sincerely regret his passing. To his widow and his surviving sons and other relatives the Council extends heart-felt and sincere sympathy. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Council be, and he is hereby directed to convey to the widow and sons of Clyde B. McAllister a copy of this Resolution. Passed February 7, 1955.*

*Paul W. Poor, Mayor*  
*Attest: Andrew A. Schwartz, Clerk*



*Clyde McAllister working his fields in Sheffield (1930s) above; Louise and Clyde McAllister in Florida (1954) below (courtesy of Patricia Reigelsberger).*



## Sheffield Village Election—November 2007

Following spirited campaigns for Village offices, we have a new Mayor Elect, John D. Hunter and new Councilwoman Elect, Carolyn Y. White. The Sheffield Village Historical Society congratulates these winners as well as winning incumbents, Councilman Kevin S. Watkinson, Treasurer Timothy J. Pelcic, and Sheffield-Sheffield Lake School Board Member William R. Emery.

We also wish to express the Society's appreciation to Mayor Darlene R. Ondercin and Councilwoman Cynthia S. Conrad for their years of service to the Village. Darlene and Cindi have been strong supporters of the Historical Society throughout its formation and development. We appreciate their efforts on the Society's behalf.

We are also gratified that all of the candidates have demonstrated their support for the Sheffield Village Historical Society and for the initiatives that the Society has undertaken. We are indeed fortunate to have dedicated individuals in our Village who are willing to run for and serve in these offices and who believe in the preservation of our heritage as a way to instill pride in our community.



Mayor Darlene Ondercin, an ardent supporter of the North Ridge Scenic Byway, holds one of the signs that are posted along State Route 254.



Mayor-elect John Hunter inspects Jungbluth Ditch in College Heights—November 13, 2007.

Mayor-elect Hunter plans to focus on three important concerns affecting the well-being of Sheffield: (1) resolving the drainage problems adversely affecting the neighborhoods along Abbe Road, (2) alleviating traffic congestion at the major intersections of the State highways, and (3) attracting new companies to the Village's two business parks.

Mayor-elect Hunter has also pledged support to the Historical Society's proposal to establish a North Ridge Historic Preservation District along Detroit Road. Society President Eddie Herdendorf introduced a draft ordinance to the Village Council on October 22, 2007 to create such a district and establish design guidelines for construction within the district. Mayor Ondercin and the Village Council accepted it for consideration as Draft Ordinance No. 2103.

Detroit Road represents one of the few districts in our Village that retains some of the architectural examples of the Village's early settlement period. Although Detroit Road is zoned commercial from Garfield Bridge over the Black River eastward to the City of Avon Line at the Norfolk & Southern Railroad track, this stretch of highway

contains a pleasant mixture of private dwellings and commercial establishments. The intent of the proposed historic district is to establish architectural guidelines that enhance the historic fabric of the corridor, not to stifle or inhibit the construction of new homes or businesses along Detroit Road.





## Lost Historic Homes Profile—Anton Jungbluth House

In the last issue of *The Village Pioneer* (Summer/Fall 2007) we initiated a series on historic homes of Sheffield Village with an article on the Gubeno-Kriebel-Conrad House on Abbe Road that was built about 1860. With this issue we are initiating a new series on historic homes that for one reason or another have been lost to the Village and no longer exist. In the earlier article, mention is made of a house next door to the Gubeno-Kriebel-Conrad House—the Anton Jungbluth House which is the subject of this profile. Gladys (Jungbluth) Wisnieski, of 3935 East River Road, kindly provided the accompanying photograph of the Anton Jungbluth House. Built by her grandfather Anton, it was across Abbe Road and a short distance north of the house where she grew up (Bernard Jungbluth House). Gladys noted that she is the one who remembers walking through rustling leaves on the way to deliver milk to her grandfather's house that was attributed to Ruth Kriebel in the earlier article. While we are setting the record straight, the earlier article also noted that four Conrad children grew up in the 1860s Gubeno-Kriebel-Conrad house—but in reality, Leroy and Winifred Conrad had seven children: Sandra (born 1944), Linda (born 1948), James (born 1952), Marian (born 1954), Michael (born 1957), Judy (born 1958) and Kathy (born 1961). Marian now resides in Amherst, Judy in Avon, and the other five siblings still live in Sheffield Village. Jim Conrad provided additional information and the family photograph for this article.



*The Conrad Family has resided in the Gubeno-Kriebel-Conrad house since 1949. Photograph taken in 1981 on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Leroy and Winifred—from left to right; Kathy, Leroy, Winifred, Marian, Jim, Linda, Sandy, Mike, and Judy.*

The Anton Jungbluth House, built circa 1900, was torn down about 100 years later. It stood on the west side of Abbe Road between French Creek Road and the Conrail tracks. The infamous “Jungbluth Ditch,” which is currently associated with flooding problems, ran through the back of Anton’s farm. Over the years the “ditch” has been channelized in several places, however, the 1903 U.S. Geological Survey topographic map of Sheffield shows it as a natural stream, that has been known as Sugar Creek since 1874.

The Anton Jungbluth House was a 2-story, wood-frame structure, best described as a turn of the century, vernacular farmhouse. A prominent feature was an expansive front porch that extended one third of the way along the north side of the house and was highlighted by decorative railings, roof support posts, and overhead trim. A rear porch, also on the north side, exhibited similar design features. The



*Anton Jungbluth House, 2942 Abbe Road, built circa 1900 and demolished in 1999 (courtesy of Gladys [Jungbluth] Wisnieski).*

basic plan of the house was a “T” shape with gables on the east, west, and north sides, which enclosed a large attic. A low extension on the rear of the house (west) also had a gable roof. This house was one of the finest examples of a Sheffield farmhouse from a century ago.

Antone Jungbluth was born in Prussia about 1802. Around 1856, he and his wife Margaret (born circa 1803) emigrated to the United States and eventually acquired two farms on Abbe Road in Sheffield, Ohio. The 1860 census shows that the Jungbluths had 4 children; John (born circa 1842), Nichols (born circa 1844), Peter (born circa 1847), Antone Jr. (born 1849). By 1880, son John had married Margaret Oster (born 1848) and they had 3 children: Antone (born 1867), Conrad (born 1872), and Eve (born 1874); while son Antone Jr. had married Catherine (born 1852, also of Germany ancestry) and they had 3 children: Anna (born 1875), Mary (born 1876), and Catherine “Katie” (born 1879). By 1900, Antone Sr. had died (February 18, 1898), as well as his wife Margaret (February 14, 1891); their youngest son, now spelled Anton, had 3 more children: John (born 1883); Bernard “Barney” (born 1885), and Frank (born 1891).

The 1900 census indicates that Anton had become a naturalized citizen and now owned the farm. About this time is when Anton built the house at 2942 Abbe Road. The 1910 census lists another daughter for Anton and Catherine, Irene (born 1902), and that son Bernard’s trade was “steam railroad.” Catherine died on July 9, 1937 and Anton passed away on February 2, 1947—the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* obituary for Anton stated “a retired farmer, who would have been 98 on next Sunday, and who was probably the oldest living Lorain Countian, passed away Sunday in his home on Abbe Road, in which he had lived for 94 years.” However, the first five decades of his life were probably spent in an older home of his father, Antone Sr. The house was then managed by Bernard Jungbluth until his death in 1962. The family eventually sold Anton’s house and farm to George Mislinski where he raised horses. Mislinski later sold the property to Conrail for a stocking and switching yard for the automobile assembly plant at the northeastern corner of the Village. The railroad yard never materialized, but when asbestos was discovered, the Anton Jungbluth House was demolished by the railroad in 1999.



## Historic Homes Profile—Townshend House

Alice (Mackert) DeChant is 90 years old. She was born on November 11, 1917 in the house in which she still lives at 5474 Detroit Road [formerly North Ridge Road], Sheffield Village, Ohio. Alice kindly welcomed the Editor to her home on November 20<sup>th</sup> and provided much of the information for this article. Alice's son, Bill DeChant, also provided further information for this article. The wood-frame house was built circa 1855 by Joseph Townshend in a typical Greek Revival style with Italianate decoration, especially on the front porch. The basic proportions of this house, its bold simple cornice, and its main doorway with side and top lights are the Greek Revival features. The elaborate bracketed entrance porch is Italianate, and may have been a later addition. A similarly decorated porch once existed along the east side of the one-story wing, with an entrance door to the kitchen area. The house plan is a "T" design with a high front gable that faces north, toward Detroit Road. It is a 2-story house with six rooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, five rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and a basement. The foundation is constructed of locally quarried sandstone. The interior has two white marble fireplaces and a brightly painted ceiling rosette in the front parlor [now used as a master bedroom], which features an outer ring of grapes on a vine and an inner ring of roses. The original interior frames for the doors and windows have been retained and exhibit elaborate geometric designs at the corners. The house sets back about 100 feet from the road, with approximately 150 feet of frontage. Known as the Townshend House, in 1976 it was listed on the Ohio Historic Inventory (LOR-230-9) maintained by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office.

Andrew and Clara Mackert (Alice's parents) acquired the house and 72-acre farm about 1910—possibly in a trade with the Jungbluth family for two farms on Abbe Road at the French Creek Road crossing. The Jungbluth family had apparently acquired the land and house from the Townshend family sometime after 1896, based on a historic map of that year which still shows the Townshend family as the owner. In any case, the 1915 Sheffield Township map shows Andrew Mackert as the owner. The Mackerts had three children: Raymond (born 1913), Gilbert (born 1914), and Alice (born 1917). In 1935,



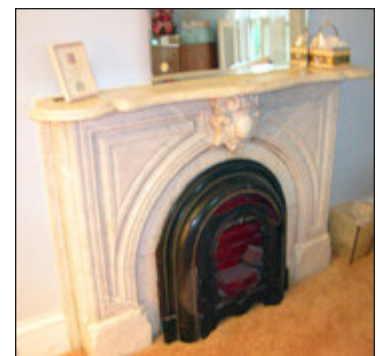
*Joseph Townshend House, 5474 Detroit Road, built circa 1855.*

Alice married Charles DeChant. For some 90 years, the Mackert-DeChant Family operated the farm—first as a truck farm supplying the Cleveland and Pittsburgh markets, then in 1953 greenhouses were constructed on 3.2 acres of the farm. The DeChants had 4 children: Charles (born 1937), William (born 1939), Clara (1941-1989), and Sharon (born 1946). William (Bill) DeChant was able to keep the greenhouses in operation until 2003, when environmental constraints, rising fuel costs, and imported tomatoes forced him to close and demolish them. He was also able to buy 20 additional acres of land to the north of Detroit Road, which gave him access to the Abbe Road sewer line, which in turn made possible the Village Reserve housing and

business development. More recently the DeChant family has sold much of the old farm on the south side of Detroit Road to the Methodist Wesleyan Meadows development. The purchase agreement gives Alice life estate privileges to dwell in the old house as long as she wishes. Alice DeChant hopes that the Wesleyan Meadows development will continue to preserve this fine example of a mid-19th century farmhouse. The Sheffield Village Historical Society certainly echoes Alice's sentiments and encourages future developments on the farm to incorporate the old homestead as a historic centerpiece.



*Alice DeChant (above), marble fireplace (upper right), and ceiling rosette (lower right) all in front parlor (now master bedroom).*





## ***Donations to the Historical Society***

### ***Donations Wanted***

The Society welcomes all items that have a bearing on the history of Sheffield and the surrounding region. We would especially like to complete our collection of Brookside yearbooks and need the following years: 1932-1943, 1956, and 1962 to 2007. Other items of particular interest include Village: (1) photographs of people, families, buildings, equipment, & landscapes, (2) obituaries, diaries, journals & letters, and (3) historic books, hand tools, toys, housewares, & personal items. We are also building a collection of Indian artifacts and would appreciate donations of such items that were found in the vicinity of Sheffield. File cabinets and office supplies are always most welcome. We would be pleased to digitally scan photographs and documents and return them in a timely fashion.

### ***Donations Received 2007***

The Society is pleased to acknowledge the following gifts received in the past year:

Anonymous—\$33

Richard Bartholomew—Sheffield Calendar (1977) & Obituary

William Beebe—Historic Farm Tools

Black River Historical Society—File Cabinets, Tables & Cutter

Matt Bliss—Historic Political Poster (1918)

Dennis Bryden—Indian Artifacts

Robert Bunsey—*Encyclopedia Americana* (1996)

Brian & Paula Clark—Steamer Trunk (1944)

Jack Cline—Television & DVD/VCR Player

Jim Conrad—Family & Building Photographs

Dennis Davis—Brookside Photographs

John Edwards—Event Photographs

Lloyd Forster—Historic Boy Scott Axe

Ron Forster—Anvil & Milk Cans

Edgar Day Gates—\$10; Day Family History

Dan Gillotti—St. Teresa Photographs

Don Hammer—Books, Digital Video Creator & Videotapes

Eddie & Ricki Herdendorf—Bookshelf, Books, & Drafting Table

Kathy Keefer—Lorain County Poster (1981)

Don Kriebel—Family Photographs

Matt Kocsis—Sheffield Manual Labor Institute Information

Ralph Lattig—Brookside Sports Album & Poster (1950s)

John Little—Historic Farm Tools

Lorain County Historical Society—Historic Maps

Diane and Matt Nahorn—\$5 & Photographs

Darlene Ondercin—Brookside & District School No.1 Models

Doug Ondercin—Sheffield Time Capsule Items

Catherine Price-Gentile—Book, Documents & Indian Artifacts

Patricia Riegelsberger—McAllister Family Photographs

Pamela Rihel—Genealogy of Schuller/Schueller Family

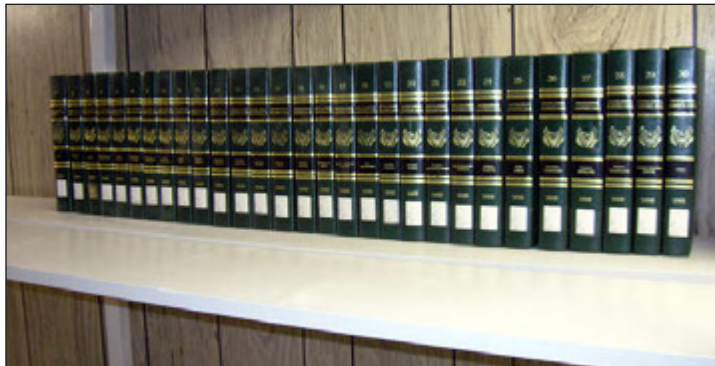
Ron Sauer—Indian Artifacts & Col. Vietzen Videotape

Carol & Fred Scharmann—Brookside Photographs

Barbara Sheets—Prayer Books & Photographs

Bill Watson—Original Paintings

Gladys Wisnieski—Family & Building Photographs; Booklet





## Charter Members

The Sheffield Village Historical Society wishes to recognize those individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who shared the Board of Trustees vision of a historical society for the Village by becoming Charter Members:

### Business/Organization Members

5 & Diner  
EcoSphere Associates  
Hawks Greenhouse, LLC  
Mike Bass Ford  
M. J. Griffith Paving, Inc.  
Oberlin Heritage Center  
Sheffield Village Firefighters Local 4275  
Ye Olde Village Kountry Store

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Meredith Williams  
Gary Wisnieski  
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Tom Wisnieski  
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Marilyn McAllister & Stanley Trupo  
Tom & Lea Walther  
Carolyn Y. & Gregory K. White  
Dr. Thomas & Melinda Wood Family (4)

## William “Bill” Watson

(1927-2007)

Bill Watson, a friend of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, died on September 22, 2007 at his winter home in El Portal, Florida. Bill, a native of Elyria, served in the Air Force from 1945 to 1947, stationed on the Pacific island of Guam. Professionally, he was a visual display technician and an accomplished artist. His work was often displayed throughout Lorain County and has been recognized by numerous awards. We are proud that four of his paintings hang in the Sheffield History Center, three exquisite floral designs and one landscape. The landscape is of particular importance to Historical Society, in that it depicts the Berkshire Mountains and Housatonic Valley of Sheffield, Massachusetts—the homeland from which the first settlers departed on their journey to found Sheffield, Ohio.

Society Trustee Donald Hammer, a personal friend of Watson, has donated a number of Bill’s books to the Society library. Several of the books deal with architecture and the flora of our region.



*The Berkshires of Sheffield, Massachusetts.*



## Organization and Contact Information

The Sheffield Village Historical Society and Cultural Center is a nonprofit organization, which aims to promote an appreciation of Sheffield's rich heritage by discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, and presenting the history of our community. Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the history and cultural attributes of Sheffield and who wishes to support the Society's mission.

**Next Board of Trustees Meeting:** Thursday, January 10, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road. All Society members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

For more information you can contact Kathy Keefer, Secretary (934-6015 evenings), or Eddie Herdendorf, President (934-1514 or herdendorf@aol.com), or Ron Forster, Vice President (949-7638).



Offices for the Society are located at:

Sheffield Village Historical Society  
Garfield Farms 4921 Detroit Road  
Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054  
(440) 934-1514 herdendorf@aol.com

Historical Society newsletters for December 2006, March 2007, and Summer/Fall 2007 can be found on the Village of Sheffield, Ohio official website: [www.sheffieldvillage.com](http://www.sheffieldvillage.com) (click on Documents, then Historical Society, then Newsletters, then download).

Page Layout by Ricki C. Herdendorf, EcoSphere Associates.

Society members are encouraged to submit articles for future issues of *The Village Pioneer*. Please send your stories or ideas to the Editor, Sheffield Village Historical Society.

Charles E. Herdendorf, Ph.D.  
Newsletter Editor

### Board of Trustees and Officers

Jean F. Ackerman  
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***Ask Your Friends to Join the Sheffield Village Historical Society***

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## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP SHEFFIELD VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Garfield Farms—4921 Detroit Road Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests in Sheffield History? \_\_\_\_\_