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The Village Pioneer

Newsletter of the Sheffield Village Historical Society & Cultural Center

***Frozen Fort Lot Springs** issue from the west bluff of the Black River upstream from Garfield Bridge (SR 254) to create a massive icicle formation. Groundwater seeping into the sandy soil at the top of the bluff encounters layers of impervious black shale, then flows toward the valley along the shale surface to emerge as springs on the face of the bluff. A hard freeze following a winter thaw often produces this spectacular display. At the top of the bluff, Fort Lot (also known as White Fort) was a fortified village occupied about 700 years ago by Prehistoric Indians. Fort Lot Springs can be visited from the Burr Oak entrance to Lorain County Metro Parks' Black River Reservation.*

Archaeological Excavations in Sheffield this Summer

As Dr. David S. Brose, former curator of archaeology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, wrote in 2000, "Few topics spark greater interest or inspire more spirited debate than the study of America's first inhabitants, the ***Paleo-Indians***." Sites preserving evidence of this culture are among the nation's rarest and we are fortunate to have one such site located in Sheffield Village—the ***Burrell Orchard Site*** (Ohio Archaeological Inventory No. 33-LN-15)—within Lorain County Metro Parks' French Creek Reservation. Dr. Brose conducted a reconnaissance survey of this site in 1971, discovering several lanceolate projectile points and other cultural features attributed to the Paleo-Indians (13,000 to 9,000 years ago). The site was utilized by at least one other Native American culture, as evidence of a village from the Late Woodland period (700 to 500 years ago) was also found. Additional field investigations in October 1975 by Dr. David R. Bush, Regional Archaeologist for the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, confirmed the presence of both Late Paleo-Indian and Late Woodland features at the site. He nominated the ***Burrell Orchard Site*** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, which was confirmed in 1977.

This summer, Dr. Brian Redmond, the present curator of archaeology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, plans to return to the Burrell Orchard Site to conduct further investigations. In conjunction with the Sheffield Village Historical Society and Lorain County Metro Parks, a test pit was opened at the site this past November revealing a feature that contained fire-cracked rock and pieces of flint. Encouraged by these finds, Dr. Redmond obtained a permit to conduct an archaeological field school at the site.

How to Join the Excavation Team

Titled, ***Archaeology In Action for Adults***, the field school will consist of weekly sessions, Monday through Friday, June 9 through July 3, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. The program is designed for Museum members who want to participate in an archaeological dig of a prehistoric Native American settlement, but cannot spare the large amount of time usually required. Participants may enroll in one to four week-long sessions. The minimum age is 16 and membership in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History is required. The fee for the field school is $200 per week ($175 for registration before May 16, 2008). For more information and to download an application, go to www.cmnh.org/site/ResearchandCollections_Archaeology_ArchaeologyInAction or contact Dr. Brian Redmond at (800) 317-9155 ext. 3301 or email bredmond@cmnh.org. Application forms are also available from the Sheffield Village Historical Society.

Dr. David Stothers (left), Professor of Archaeology at the University of Toledo, and Dr. Brian Redmond (right), Curator of Archaeology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, examine Woodland Indian artifacts at a meeting of the Firelands Archaeological Research Center held at the Sheffield History Center in February.

Opportunity for Sheffield Historical Society Members

Members of the Sheffield Village Historical Society will have an opportunity to visit the excavation on two occasions—Thursday, June 19 and Wednesday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited at the site, so you will need reserve in advance by calling (440) 934-1514 before June 12. We will meet in the parking lot at James Day Park at 9:30 a.m. for a briefing and walk about a quarter of a mile to the site.

Dr. Redmond has graciously agreed to present the preliminary results of the Museum's excavations at the summer meeting of the Sheffield Village Historical Society on July 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Metro Parks' French Creek Nature Center, 4530 Colorado Avenue. This event is being cosponsored by the Lorain County Metro Parks and is free and open to the public.

Archaeological field school at the Taylor Site on the Huron River in Erie County, organized by the Firelands Archaeological Research Center in 2007.

Native American Occupation of Sheffield

The historic record for northern Ohio covers nearly 350 years, from the early journals of French and English explorers and missionaries to the present day. The period of human occupation before written records for the area we now call Sheffield is perhaps 30 times longer—the Prehistoric Period. During this period, several Indian cultural groups inhabited the Black River valley and North Ridge. This summer's excavation at the ***Burrell Orchard Site*** will add to our knowledge of these prehistoric cultures. The following is a summary of what we know of the earliest inhabitants of our Village.

Paleo-Indians. Analysis of pollen in sediment cores from the Lake Erie basin show that the time between 13,000 and 9,000 years before the present (YBP) was characterized by major changes in the flora and, by inference, a major climatic shift. As the glacial ice retreated from the region, gradual warming led to the replacement of conifer forests with deciduous trees on the lake plain. During this time the Paleo-Indians are thought to have entered the Lake Erie region, although there is some evidence of earlier occupation in limestone caves and rock shelters in western Pennsylvania and on abandoned beach ridges of Lake Huron in southern Ontario. The environment was that of a boreal forest dominated by spruce and pine and human populations were most likely small and scattered. Large mammalian species, such as woodland muskox (*Bootherium bombifrons*), American mastodon (*Mammut americanum*), woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus prinigenius*), giant ground sloth (*Megalonyx jeffersonii*), elk-moose (*Cervalces scotti*), and giant beaver (*Castoroides ohioensis*) were present in the region at this time and utilized the boreal forest habitat. Paleo-Indians overlapped in time with these now-extinct Pleistocene [glacial age] mammals and there is some evidence they hunted them. There is little to indicate the degree of impact such exploitation may have had on these animals, but overhunting and climate changes may have hastened their decline.

By 11,000 YBP winters were less extreme and summers were warmer in the Lake Erie region. Increasing diversity of vegetation and fauna would have provided multiple new environments and enhanced sources of food and shelter for human populations to exploit. The Clovis people entered eastern North America during the late glacial period, just prior to 11,000 YBP and may have been the first wave of colonizing people in the Lake Erie region. The single most diagnostic lithic (stone) artifact of the Clovis culture is a fluted projectile point, referred to as the Clovis point. The Paleo-Indians were nomadic, probably living in small groups (40 to 60 people) that obtained most of their food from hunting with wooden spears tipped with distinctive lanceolate points made of flint.

From 11,000 to 10,000 YBP the climatic conditions in the region became more complex, with short-term temperature and moisture reversals in contrast to the gradual warming trends of earlier millennia. Increased mobility in human populations seems likely during this period because the landscape was no longer predictable from generation to generation. Prolonged drought conditions would have placed significant stresses on human and animal populations. Later in the Paleo-Indian period, another group of hunters called the Plano people moved into northern Ohio from the west (about 9,500 YBP). Artifacts from this culture, particularly lanceolate projectile points, have been found in Sheffield along the abandoned beach ridge that once formed the shore of the glacial Lake Warren, which we now know at North Ridge (Route 254).

Additional evidence of early human occupation in northern Ohio comes from excavations at the ***Burrell Orchard Site*** (33-LN-15). This site, which appears to have been occupied off and on for the past 10,000 years, may have been attractive to prehistoric people because of its well-drained soil and its strategic location above French Creek and the Black River. These valleys were probably conduits for the movement of game, especially deer. Also, the upland terrain and abandoned beach ridges to the south were rich in forest and grassland resources. During this time period, the Black River valley and North Ridge were most likely occupied by Paleo-Indians. Little remains of

Paleo-Indians attack a wooly mammoth in northern Ohio about 10,000 years ago. Although there are some clues that Paleo-Indians hunted large mammals, they likely utilized a wide range of plants and animals for survival (courtesy of National Park Service).

Paleo-Indian lanceolate projectile point (left), dated at 10,000-9,000 years ago and Archaic corner-notched point (right), dated at 7,000-6,000 years ago, discovered on North Ridge in Sheffield Village by Dennis Bryden. These discoveries were from the vicinity of the I-90 Interchange, known as the Gornall Sites (33-LN-58 & 59). Flint for these points is believed to have been quarried by Indians from deposits in the Upper Mercer limestone (Pennsylvanian Period, 300 million YBP) in Coshocton County, Ohio.

Seasonal hunting camp typical of the type built by Archaic Indians in northern Ohio (courtesy of James Maxwell).

the camps of these Late Paleo-Indian hunters, other than their distinctive lanceolate-shaped spear points and perhaps the fire-stained cobbles scattered throughout their sites.

Archaic Indians. The warming trend was re-established during the period from 10,000 to 9,000 YBP as climatic conditions approached modern values and gradients. Spruce, hemlock, pine, and larch either disappeared or were restricted to sheltered ravines, while oak, hickory, walnut, and maple became the dominant trees. Later, 7,000 to 6,000 YBP, beech became important. Human populations would have been affected by the loss of conifer forests, but the more diverse and plentiful fauna of the deciduous forests that replaced them and the milder winters would have also increased forage potentials.

These new opportunities coincided with occupation of the region by people of the Archaic culture whose economy was based on hunting, fishing, and gathering. With the expansion of the deciduous forest into northern Ohio, Archaic Indians adapted to the changing environment by developing new food sources and modifying technologies to utilize the resources of the newly established woodlands. In addition to hunting game, such as deer, they gathered plant foods, especially from nut-bearing trees (oak, hickory, and walnut). Most Archaic sites found in northern Ohio appear to have been small hunting camps. Archaic habitation and hearth structures in other northern Ohio watersheds suggest cold-weather occupation of camps (probably autumn), when deer are most mobile and best hunted. Typically these camps were located on a vantage point above a stream valley to maximize hunting efforts by utilizing bluff tops as observation areas to locate and pursue deer moving through the valley. Archaic Indians established hunting and fishing camps in various parts of their territories to take advantage of seasonal food resources.

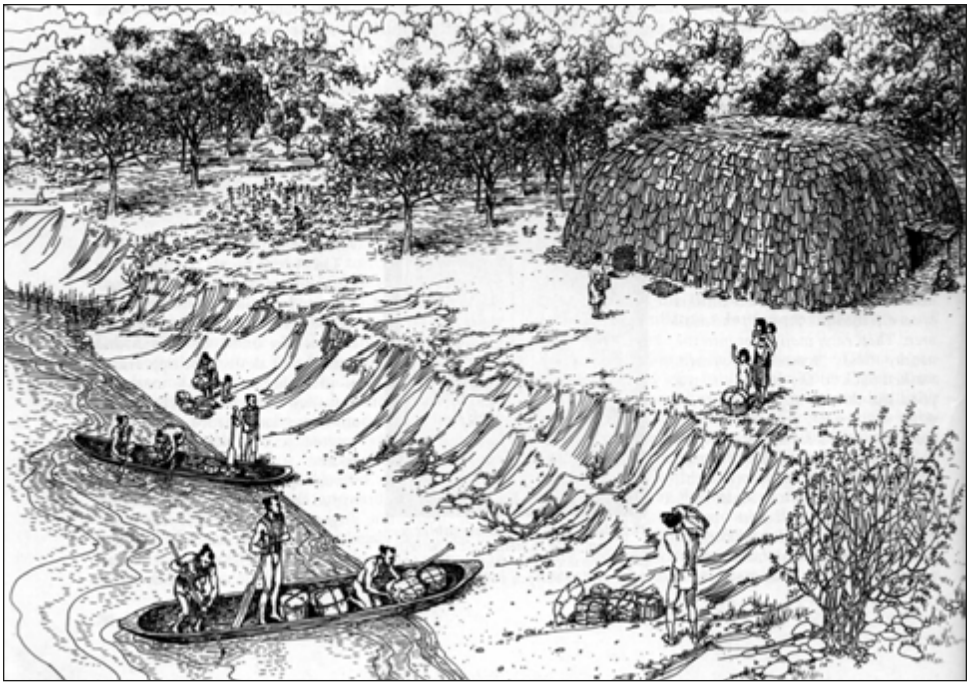
In addition to chipping spear points and knives from flint, Archaic Indians developed a technique for making axes and various types of food-processing tools. They tended to use hard rocks for these purposes, such as granite erratics, which are abundant in the glacial deposits of the watershed and in the hollows between the ancient beach ridges. Brewerton side-notched projectile points from the ***Gornall Sites*** (33-LN-58 & 59) on North Ridge in Sheffield indicate Late Archaic people (5,000 to 3,500 YBP) occupied our area.

Woodland Indians. About 3,000 YBP the way of life of Indian people in much of eastern North America began to undergo a fundamental change, largely in response to the domestication and cultivation of plants. With crops to supplement food traditionally obtained by hunting and gathering, cultures were able to establish more-or-less permanent villages. Fired clay pottery also appeared at this time, permitting resources to be stored, which also favored more permanent settlements. Thus, these people began to follow a yearly round of activities, in part controlled by the need to come together in summer to plant, cultivate, and harvest crops. This last 3,000 years of eastern North American prehistory is known as the Woodland Period.

One of the most extensively documented and perhaps the single most important aboriginal wild plant food source associated with lagoons at Lake Erie stream mouths was wild rice (*Zizania aquatic* and *Zizania palustris*). Early French explorers and missionaries reported that wild rice constituted a food staple for many of Algonquian- and Siouan-speaking tribal groups then living in the Great Lakes region. The occurrence of stands of wild rice, which were once abundant in Lake Erie embayments, such as the Black River mouth, may have been one of the primary attractions for late prehistory aboriginal peoples to our area.

Woodland Indian flint knapping kit and demonstration of its use to make projectile points from flint. These artifacts were excavated by the Firelands Archaeological Research Center at the Seaman Fort Site on the Huron River in Erie County, Ohio.

At first, Woodland farmers cultivated only indigenous Midwestern plants for their seeds, such as the marsh elder (*Iva*), lamb's-quarters (*Chenopodium*), gourd (*Largenaria*), and perhaps sunflower (*Helianthus*); these crops were later replaced by cultivated corn, beans, and squash introduced from Mexico. Perhaps for the next 2,000 years, cultivated plant foods supplemented a subsistence economy based on hunting, gathering, and fishing. By about 1,100 YBP, Indian farmers became reliant on corn, beans, squash, and sunflower



Depiction of a Woodland Indian village along a tributary to Lake Erie (courtesy of James Maxwell).

for a significant portion of their food. At about the same time, bows and arrows first came into common use for hunting.

Based on radiocarbon dates, a major Woodland village, the ***Burrell Fort Site*** (33-LN-3), was occupied from 2,500 to 1,200 YBP at the confluence of French Creek and Sugar Creek in James Day Park. The fort was constructed on high ground were the creeks meet to form a triangular projection. The village was thus protected from invaders on two sides by steep shale bluffs and on the third side by a wooden stockade and earthworks. Stains in the soil where the wooden posts were located and the trenches dug to form the earthworks are still clearly visible at the site. The ***Burrell Fort Site*** was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Although the Woodland villagers grew corn, as evidenced by the carbonized kernels recovered from village refuse pits, large amounts of animal remains and nut shells indicate that farming may have been less important to the village economy than hunting, fishing, or gathering. Evidence for angling with hook and line includes polished bone fishhooks at several northern Ohio sites. Fish from Lake Erie and Black River were likely taken with nets, traps, or spears. Refuge pits (middens) at Late Woodland sites on Sandusky Bay (about 900 YBP) have yielded an assemblage of fish that represent both shallow nearshore waters and the deeper waters of Lake Erie. Many small and medium sized fish were present along with some very large individuals. The wide size variation and high diversity indicates capture by trap or seine, a hypothesis that is supported by the recovery of netsinkers at the site. Fishing grounds with relatively firm, unobstructed bottoms were probably selected close to the village. The dominance of adult pumpkinseed sunfish (*Lepomis gibbosus*) suggests these were taken during the early summer spawning season when adults are easily captured in shallow water by seining. Some open water species were present, but most share an affinity with shallow, vegetated edges of a protected bay or river mouth. Other vertebrates identified from the middens (muskrats, ducks, turtles, and frogs) correspond to the shallow-water habitat indicated by the majority of fish species.

Studies of animal bones from prehistoric Indian habitations in northern Ohio show that white-tailed deer was the single most important game animal for the Woodland people. In addition to meat, deer provided hide for clothing, bone and antler for tools and utensils, sinew for thread and binding material, and brain for tanning. Elk, raccoon, rabbits, bear, and wild turkey were also hunted in the upland forest surrounding the Black River valley. Beavers, muskrats, and waterfowl were taken from the wetlands. Wild plants from valley wetlands and upland forests appear to have provided at least half of the foods eaten by Woodland people. Nuts, numerous kinds of seeds of herbaceous plants, and greens were collected from the forest, as were many medicinal plants. Hickory nuts, in particular, were crushed and boiled in water to release their oil, which was collected and used as margarine. Wetland plants, such as cattails and bulrushes, provided raw material for making mats, baskets, house coverings, and a great many other utensils.

Fired clay pottery vessels and smoking pipe bowls were fashioned from clay probably dug from bluffs along Lake Erie tributaries. Pots were unpainted and were decorated along the rim with bands of simple rectangular tool impressions. Oval post-

Woodland Indian projectile points and flint tools from the Burrell Fort Site on French Creek in Sheffield Village, Ohio (courtesy of Ron Sauer).

Reconstructed Mixter Dentate ceramic vessel excavated from the White Fort Site on the Black River (courtesy of Dr. Brian Redmond).

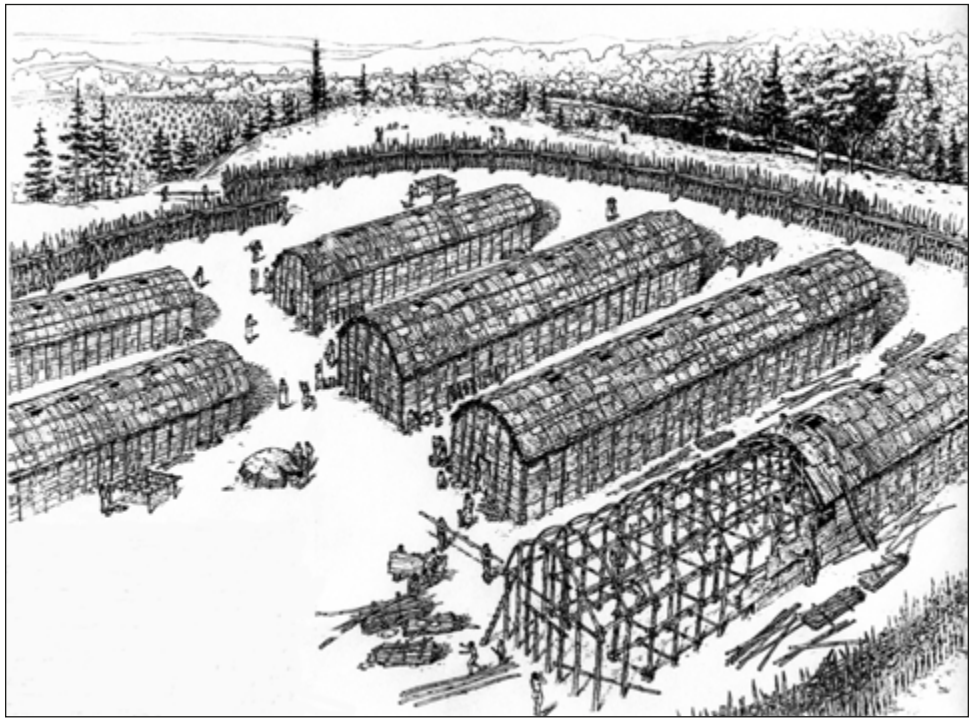
Late Prehistoric Indian (Sandusky Tradition) ceramic artifacts from the Eiden Site on the Black River in Sheffield Village, Ohio. An Indian village existed at this site about 700-600 years ago (courtesy of Ron Sauer).

mold patterns, floor depressions, and hearth structures at Woodland houses were similar to the 17th century dome-shaped lodges or "wigwams" built by Ottawa Indians of the western Great Lakes region. These houses probably consisted of oval pole frames, covered with various available kinds of tree bark and bulrush or cattail mats.

Late Prehistoric and Contact Indians. The last prehistoric culture to inhabit Lorain County and areas to the west is known as the Sandusky Tradition, which presumably arose from about 1,000 YBP. A contemporary group of Indians living more to the northeast is known as the Whittlesey Tradition, while another group in southern Ohio has been named the Fort Ancient Culture. The Black River valley lies at the eastern edge of the region occupied by the Sandusky Tradition. Defined as an archaeological sequence spanning the Late Woodland to Late Prehistoric Periods, the Sandusky Tradition is believed to have originated in the central Lake Erie drainage basin of northern Ohio and expanded over time into northwestern Ohio, southeastern Michigan, and southwestern Ontario. These people inhabited small villages built on promontories or high banks overlooking streams that emptied into Lake Erie, such as the ***White Fort Site*** (33-LN-2)—about 3,000 feet south of Garfield Bridge. The recovery of Mixter Dentate and Parker Festooned ceramics indicates that this settlement was affiliated with the Sandusky Tradition. Such settlements were fortified with palisades and exterior ditches. Late Prehistoric Indians used bows and arrows for hunting. The proximity of villages to the lake and rivers enabled these people to fish extensively, both with hooks and with nets. Their nets were weighted with rounded pieces of stone, particularly hard shale, which were roughly notched on opposite edges for attachment to the nets. These people also cultivated corn and collected wild plant food and freshwater mussels. The discovery of a bundle burial at the ***White Fort Site*** indicates careful processing of the deceased, perhaps at a remote location some distance from the village, prior to final interment in the fort.

Excavations at the ***Eiden Site*** (33-LN-14), located on the north bank of French Creek at its confluence with the Black River, indicate that a Late Prehistoric agricultural village was still active here about 550 YBP. However, ceramic artifacts, circular house patterns, pit features, and numerous human burials indicate that the major occupation of the village belonged to the middle phase of Sandusky Tradition (about 750 YBP). The ***Eiden Prehistoric District***, which demonstrates several periods of prehistoric occupation beginning as early as 10,000 YBP, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

The Sandusky Tradition may have culminated in groups ancestral to the *Assistaeronon* or "Fire Nation" that are documented in early historical accounts, and in turn may have been the ancestors of the Erie Indians of eastern Lake Erie who were reportedly destroyed as a people by marauding Iroquois from western New York in 1654. Archaeological investigations indicate that the Iroquois occupied a relatively small area between Lakes Erie and Ontario and used the hinterlands of the north shore as hunting grounds. These groups represent the region's Contact Indians, those who first encountered Europeans. However, there were very few Indians living along the south shore of Lake Erie when the first Europeans began to move through the area in the late 17th century.



Fortified Late Prehistoric Indian village of the Great Lakes region (courtesy of James Maxwell).

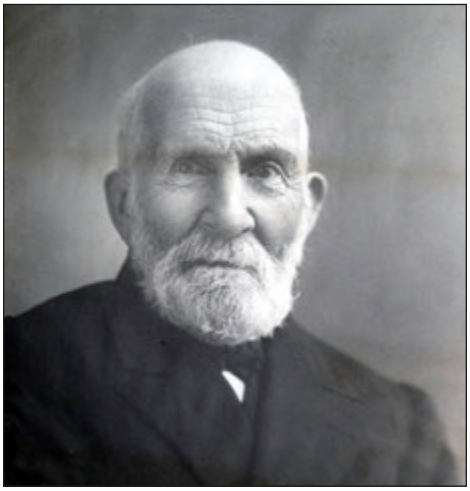
Sheffield Manual Labor Institute (1836-1837)

Burrell Homestead, built c. 1820, was home of the Sheffield Manual Labor Institute.

Sheffield played a brief but important role in the formative years of Oberlin College (known then as the Oberlin Collegiate Institute). Here in Sheffield at the Burrell Homestead on East River Road in 1836, some 40 students began their college careers at a branch campus of Oberlin College, known as the ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute***. The Institute's radical aim was to offer practical agricultural education to women as well as men, and to students of all races. One of these students was James Bradley, the first African American student at Oberlin College. The names of all of the Institute's students are listed at the end of this article. Matt Kocsis, Historian for Lorain County Metro Parks, Tom Hoerrle of the Lorain County Historical Society, and Patricia Murphy, Executive Director of the Oberlin Heritage Center, provided substantial information for this article.

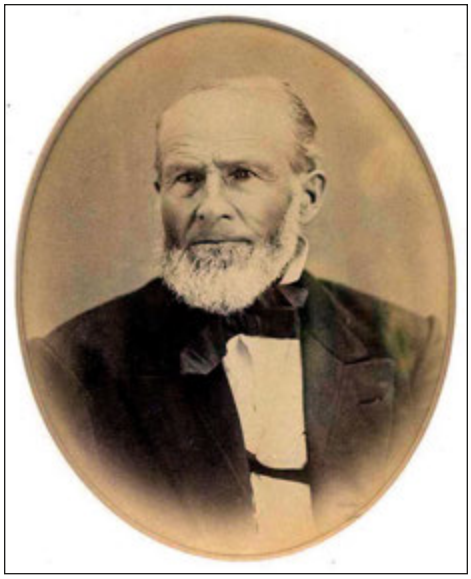
But just how did Sheffield and the Burrell Homestead become associated with a fledgling Oberlin College? The story is indeed a fascinating tale of pioneering visionaries. In 1832 John Jay Shipherd, a Presbyterian minister from Elyria, and his longtime friend Philo P. Steward, a missionary to the Choctaw Indians, made plans to found a college where both men and women might be educated. The envisioned college would provide an education based on the principles of moral reform and physical labor, supporting both the improvement of the mind and health of the students. They selected a wilderness site on Plum Creek near the center of Lorain County, and in December 1833 Oberlin College opened with 29 men and 15 women students. In the spring of 1834 the State of Ohio granted a charter to the new institution under the name ***Oberlin Collegiate Institute***. The policy of the founders, in offering education to young women on the same terms as young men, had the immediate effect of drawing intelligent and ambitious young women from the East to Oberlin. At first the women were eligible only for the preparatory course, but in 1837 four female students were accepted for the regular college course—thus Oberlin became the first co-educational college in the world. Three of the women went on to graduate in 1841, becoming the first women in the world to receive a collegiate Bachelor of Arts degree.

To secure the future of his idealistic school, Rev. Shipherd set out to find candidates for the college presidency and potential financial supporters. In Cincinnati, he discovered a situation at the Lane Theological Seminary that reinforced his concept of education for all races. Rev. Asa Mahan and his students had decided to leave the Seminary because in 1835 the authorities of that institution forbade the discussion of the slavery question and abolitionism. Shipherd offered Rev. Mahan to the Oberlin Board of Trustees as his presidential choice and after much discussion, the Board narrowly approved Mahan along with a provision to enroll students regardless of color. The Board's decision was mostly influenced by the sentiment of the wealthy Tappen family who were eager to financially support a school that would accept the refugee Lane Seminary students and their anti-slavery beliefs. Oberlin received some 30 of the former Lane Seminary students as the Tappens funded a theological department [Oberlin Theological Seminary] and buildings for the school's new pupils. General Jacob D. Cox (1828-1900), Civil War general and Ohio governor, graduated from Oberlin in 1851. General Cox was a prolific chronicler of the Civil War period and contended that the anti-slavery position of Oberlin was a deciding influence in turning northwestern and western States against slavery, thus leading to the election of Abraham Lincoln and the eventual emancipation of the slaves.



Jabez Lyman Burrell, founder of the Sheffield Manual Labor Institute.

With Oberlin's sudden growth of enrollment in the institution's second year, the founders began a search for ways to deal with student overpopulation and lack of physical resources. A particularly attractive proposal was for Oberlin to start a branch school that could receive students from the parent college. This idea became a reality when Jabez Lyman Burrell of Sheffield (son of Sheffield's founder Capt. Jabez Burrell), a former student of Rev. Shipherd and charter member of the Board of Trustees, offered



Robbins Burrell (1799-1877) principal instructor of the Sheffield Manual Labor Institute.

the Burrell Homestead as the location for the branch campus. The Board of Trustees quicklyapproved the proposal so the new school could open immediately and address the pressing situation. With the death of Capt. Burrell in 1833, Jabez's older brother Robbins became the head of the Homestead. Jabez asked his brother to open the school on the extensive family farm with its rich bottomlands, pastures, woodlots, barns, cheesehouse, and stately 15-room brick house. Robbins accepted the idea and was appointed to the position of Practical Farmer for Oberlin College in March 1836. By June the school was ready to open and the first students of the ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute*** attended classes in Robbins Burrell's front parlor and received practical agricultural training in his farm fields. The Burrell farm served as classroom, a place to work, and a dormitory. The Burrell home, as well as other nearby homesteads, was used to house students that could not be boarded on the farm. Educational appurtenances such as books, charts, papers, and other necessities needed to teach Greek, mathematics, and natural philosophy were obtained from Oberlin. In addition to Robbins Burrell leading the farming operation, Jabez Lyman Burrell and Lorenzo Dow Butts served as instructors for the new students.

The ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute*** was a leader in agricultural experimentation. In 1836 the Trustees of the Oberlin Collegiate Institute embarked on a grand project to raise money for both Oberlin and Sheffield—the manufacturing of silk. Since silk is obtained from silkworms (*Bombyx mori*), and silkworms eat mulberry leaves, vast groves of mulberry trees were envisioned for both Oberlin and Sheffield. Caterpillars of this moth species produce a 1-inch cocoon that contains about 1,000 feet silk. Steaming and soaking in hot water softens the gum that binds the treads, permitting unrolling of the silk and its spinning into threads. This labor-intensive process yields about 1,000 miles of silk per pound of raw material. Early in the spring of 1836 some 39,000 mulberry trees were purchased from a grower in New York and shipped in 20 boxes, each 6 feet long, 3 feet wide, and 3.5 feet high. Ten teams of horses were required to transport the boxes to the port at Buffalo; from there a schooner carried them to Cleveland where they were transferred to a smaller boat for the short trip to the Black River. On June 3, 1836 the trees were landed only a mile from the ***Sheffield Institute***. Oberlin sent a plow and yoke of oxen to Sheffield to help break the ground so the trees could be planted immediately. Some 17,000 mulberry trees were soon planted on the Burrell farm, while on June 28, Jabez Burrell secured about 7,000 Chinese mulberry seeds that were also planted.

Attending the trees was the job of the male students. Oberlin's silk agent, E. E. Coleman, noted that the silk preparation process is "particularly well adapted to female labor," however, the Oberlin Trustees were insistent on keeping the Female Department from the "promising plantation." The male students submitted bills for their work at various tasks, such as: "setting out mulberries—11 hours x 8¢ = 88¢ and plowing drains in mulberry lot—5 hours x 10¢ = 50¢." Later in the summer more trees were added at Sheffield, bringing the total to 25,000, while Oberlin planted 30,000. The Oberlin venture was weighted down with several problems. Management was lacking, the trees did not fare well in the heavy clay soil of the glacial till plain in Oberlin, and cattle were let into some patches where new shoots were browsed down. In addition, the summer of 1836 was extremely dry and the chances of survival were further reduced. Sheffield fared somewhat better, but the summer drought took a heavy toll.

North parlor of the Robbins Burrell home where Sheffield Manual Labor Institute classes were held. Note commercial candle molds at the left foreground.

South parlor fireplace of the Burrell home.

At Sheffield the summer progressed with the students attending to the mulberry trees, planting and harvesting other crops, and pursuing their academic studies. Although some students could use the manual labor system to earn money, several suffered financial problems and had difficulty paying the $150 tuition. The ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute*** also had its financial problems, particulary during the winter. A barter system was established with Oberlin, whereby stoves were furnished to Robbins for a large quantity of apples. In December, Sheffield borrowed 32 chairs and Jabez Burrell sent one hog each to Asa Mahan and Charles G. Finney, supplying them with a total of 300 pounds of pork. In January, Robbins bartered for 8 tables, 6 from Cincinnati Hall. However, the New Year dawned with new hope for Sheffield—it was decided that the time had come to firmly establish Sheffield as its own educational facility by the process of incorporation.

The ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute*** mirrored the objectives of its parent college with its devotion to "the plainest living and higher thinking" for the purpose of extending "the blessings of education to the teeming multitudes of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys." The Oberlin motto—*Learning and Labor*—was also a perfect fit for the Sheffield Institute. Thus, in 1837 Oberlin College applied to the State of Ohio for a incorporation charter to operate the ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute***. On March 7, 1837 the General Assembly of the State of Ohio voted to charter the Sheffield Institute with Robbins Burrell, Lorenzo Butts, William Day, Milton Garfield, Frederick Hamlin, Rev. John Keep, Peter P. Pease, and William H. Root appointed to the Board of Trustees. The Board was a blend of Sheffield and Oberlin appointees—Burrell, Day, Garfield, and Root owned farms in the surrounding community, while Hamlin, Keep, and Pease were also trustees of the Oberlin Collegiate Institute. Butts, originally from the Lane Institute in Cincinnati, had migrated to Oberlin in 1836 to fight against slavery.

Unfortunately, downstate politicians were much less sympathetic to the abolition movement than the citizens of northern Ohio. The chartering act, known as incorporation, contained an amendment restricting the "benefits of the school to whites and Indians." The end for the ***Sheffield Manual Labor Institute*** came later that year because the Ohio Legislature refused to grant a charter unless the Sheffield Institute excluded black students. Rather than betray their founding doctrine of admitting all races, the Board of Trustees decided to close the Institute. Many of its students continued their studies on the Oberlin campus. Some of the attendees of the Sheffield Institute remained in Oberlin and took part in the famed Oberlin–Wellington slave rescue of 1858. Others moved on to become missionaries, ministers, teachers, and lawyers. Still others found romance—student Jane Strong married Jabez Lyman Burrell and they took up residence in Oberlin in 1852, while her classmate Mary F. Kellogg married James H. Fairchild, who would later become president of Oberlin College. Trustees Milton Garfield and William Root continued to be successful farmers in Sheffield, each building fine Greek-revival homes—one on North Ridge and the other on the Lake Erie shore—both still stand today. Robbins Burrell also continued to farm the land in Sheffield, where his homestead is now part of the Lorain County Metro Parks' French Creek Reservation. From 1840 until the Civil War, Robbins operated a major station on the Underground Railroad, hiding runaway slaves until he could arrange for ship captains, such as Aaron Root (William Root's bother), to carry them safely across Lake Erie to freedom in British Canada.

Cheesehouse at the Burrell Homestead.

Grave of Robbins Burrell in Garfield Cemetery.

Sheffield Manual Labor Institute Female Code

"Young ladies of good minds, unblemished morals and respectable attainments, are received into this department, and placed under the superintendence of a judicious lady, whose duty it is to correct their habits and mold the female character. They board at the public table, and perform the labor of the Steward's Department, together with the washing, ironing, and most of the sewing for the students. They attend recitations with young gentlemen of all departments. Their rooms are entirely separate from those of the other sex, and no calls or visits in their respective apartments are at all permitted."

Sheffield Manual Labor Institute Students and Faculty

NAME	HOME CITY	CAREER NOTES
Phillip Adams	Newbury, Massachusetts	In charge of saw gang at Institute; teacher
James Bradley	Cincinnati, Ohio	First African American to attend Oberlin College
Chauncey F. Carrier	Oberlin, Ohio	Mulberry farmer
Nathanial Chamberlain	Manchester, New York	
Sarah Culver	Elyria, Ohio	
Kellogg Day	Sheffield, Ohio	Marries Mary L. Ingalls; Cherokee Indian missionary (1841)
William R. Ellis	Brookport, New York	
James M. Fitch	Lima, New York	Missionary to Jamaica; participant Oberlin-Wellington Rescue of 1858
George S. Harris	Troy, New York	
Harrison Hobart	Chester, Ohio	
Mary Hosford	Oberlin, Ohio	Among 4 female students [with Mary F. Kellogg] accepted for entrance into the regular course of the Collegiate Department at Oberlin in September 1837, thus beginning the actual college education for women and the beginning of co-education at the college level
Oramel Hosford	Oberlin, Ohio	
Thomas Howells	Putnam, Ohio	
Loisa Humisted	Elyria, Ohio	
Henry E. Hunt	Perrysburg, New York	
Hiram B. Hunt	Perrysburg, New York	
Mary L. Ingalls	East Evans, New York	Marries classmate Kellogg Day
Charles A. Kellogg	Jamestown, New York	
Mary F. Kellogg	Jamestown, New York	Teacher in Louisiana; returns to Oberlin, marries James H. Fairchild—later Oberlin College President (1866-1889)
Jebeze Knapp	Geneva, Ohio	
Charles Langston	Virginia	African American
Gideon E. Langston	Virginia	African American
Charles D. Martin	Bath, New Hampshire	
Phineae Pease	Oberlin, Ohio	Methodist minister
Charles Plumb	Curtissville, Massachusetts	
William Plumb	Curtissville, Massachusetts	
Jennett Raymond	Lodi, New York	Teacher in Louisiana; returns to Oberlin to attend classes
Jane Sackett	Sheffield, Ohio	
John P. Sill	Warren, Pennsylvania	
Joseph Sill	Oberlin, Ohio	
Ezra Stevens	Oberlin, Ohio	
Abel Stockwell	Bainbridge, New York	
Luke I. Stoutenburgh	Pleasant Valley, New York	Minister, Oneida Institute
Jane Strong	Portage, New York	Marries Jabez Lyman Burrell a Trustee, Oberlin College
James F. Stuart	Oberlin, Ohio	Sea voyage (with James M. Fitch); returns to Oberlin; later practices law in San Francisco, California
William H. Swift	Falmouth, Massachusetts	
Angelin L. Tenny	Plainfield, New York	Later writes (November 1837) "Sheffield is to me a beloved place …They endeavoured to correct our faults and improve our habits."
John Todd	West Hanover, Pennsylvania	
Isaac Tupper	Sandusky, Ohio	
Oliver Watrous	Sheffield, Ohio	
Urana C. White	Winsted, Connecticut	Teacher in Michigan; dies August 5, 1839
Mary Ann Whittlesey	Brownhelm, Ohio	Marries Lorenzo Butts, Instructor at Oberlin College
FACULTY		
Robbins Burrell	Sheffield, Ohio	
Jabez Lyman Burrell	Sheffield, Ohio	
Lorenzo Dow Butts	Cincinnati, Ohio	

Sheffield Trivia

How well do you know Sheffield Village? Play ***Sheffield Trivia*** by answering the following questions and find out. Many answers can be found in issues of *The Village Pioneer*. Our answers, which may be debatable, are on the last page.

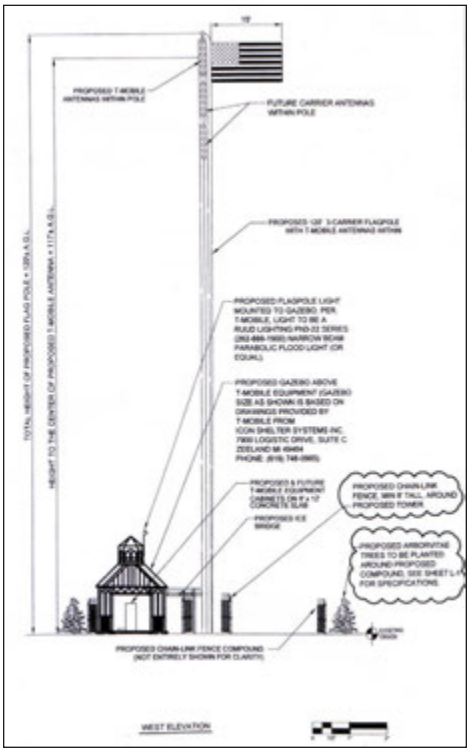
1. What is the oldest house in Sheffield Village and when was it built?
2. What was the most valuable cash crop raised in Sheffield in the 20th Century?
3. What major tributary to the Black River runs through Sheffield Village?
4. In what year was Sheffield Village's Fire Station No. 1 first opened?
5. How many Brookside boys were on the field for the school's first football team?
6. In what year was Brookside School devastated by a tornado?
7. What public conveyance once operated Sheffield to Cleveland in the 1920s?
8. What lakefront resort operated in Sheffield in the late 1800s?
9. What racetrack was once located in Sheffield?
10. What Civil War reunion camp was built in Sheffield in 1907?
11. How many gasoline stations are located in Sheffield Village?
12. East River Road was once which State Highway in the 1950s?
13. How many State Highways are located in Sheffield Village?
14. How many bridges are there over the Black River in Sheffield?
15. What is the origin of North Ridge?
16. Now many political subdivisions border Sheffield Village?
17. Where is Sheffield's "4-corners" area?
18. How many traffic lights are located in Sheffield Village?
19. How many new car dealerships are located in Sheffield Village?
20. Who were the first inhabitants of what is now Sheffield?
21. In what year was Sheffield Village incorporated?
22. Who was Sheffield Village's first mayor?
23. Who is the largest single landowner in Sheffield Village?
24. What is the oldest church still active in Sheffield?
25. What is the name of the Sheffield Village Historical Society's newsletter?

T-Mobile Antenna

In the evening, driving south on East River Road and approaching the Detroit Road intersection, one is treated to an inspiring sight—a gleaming white shaft towering 120 feet into the night sky with a glorious American flag illuminated and freely waving in the breeze at its pinnacle. The shaft is not merely a flagpole, it is a sophisticated telecommunication antenna constructed by T-Mobile USA, Inc. This structure is a far cry from the unsightly cell tower originally proposed by T-Mobile to be located adjacent to the historic Sheffield Village Hall and Garfield Cemetery. The Historical Society congratulates T-Mobile for the stunning design of the antenna and our Village officials for insisting on a more appropriate location and graceful appearance.

T-Mobile Antenna Tower at the intersection of Gulf and Detroit Roads.

The accompanying drawing and photograph illustrates some of the features of the facility. For those who would like to check out their GPS units, the tower is located at 41°25'13.84" North latitude and 82°05'44.11" West longitude. The antenna itself is completely mounted inside the tower at 117 feet above the ground. The tower also has the capacity to internally hold two additional antennas below the first. Narrow beam parabolic floodlights illuminate the 15-foot long flag. A 6-foot-high chain-link fence surrounds the base of the tower and secures a communications cabinet mounted on an 8-foot x 12-foot concrete pad. A number of things remain to be completed later this year, including: (1) a gazebo built to hide the cabinet from view, (2) 20 American arbor vitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) trees planted around the perimeter to screen the chain–link fence, and (3) a 10-foot x 35-foot rip rap apron installed outside the fence to allow rainwater to percolate into the ground, in compliance with stormwater management requirements. In addition to the patriotic symbol, the Village of Sheffield receives a monthly lease fee of $1,400 for the use of Village property.



Design plans for T-Mobile Antenna Tower.

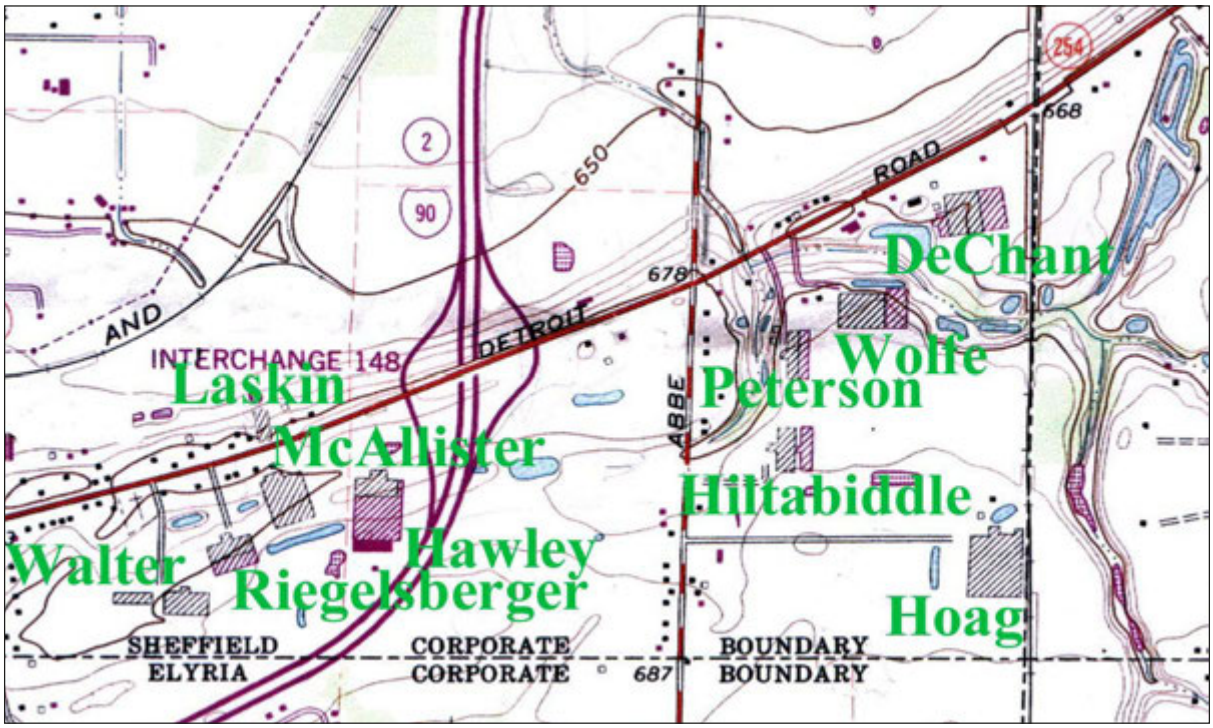
History of Sheffield Village's Greenhouse Industry

Driving along Detroit Road today, one would scarcely realize that a few decades ago North Ridge was home to a thriving "Hot House" Tomato Industry that produced upwards of 2,500 tons of tomatoes each year, valued at over $5,000,000. In fact, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* (April 9, 1972) referred to our area as the "Greenhouse Capital of America," while *Gasco News* (Summer 1967) went so far as to recognize northeastern Ohio as the "Greenhouse Capital of the World." It all started at Sheffield in 1927 when John Hoag and his son Ellis (Bud) initiated the greenhouse industry by placing 2.2 acres of farmland under glass at the southeast corner of the Village. Hoag's original greenhouse was composed of seven interconnected houses, each 411 feet long and varying from 32 to 36 feet wide. In 1937-1938 Hoag added an additional six houses, bringing the total glass-covered area to just over 4 acres.

The sandy soils of North Ridge proved ideal for growing tomatoes and gourmet cucumbers in greenhouses. After Word War II, several other farmers along the Ridge encased many acres under glass. By the late 1970s, ten growers had approximately 24 acres in greenhouse production. The new greenhouses were typically 32 to 36 feet wide by 330 feet long. Walter McAllister (2.6 acres) was the first of the new generation of growers, followed by John Laskin (0.7 acre), Tom Wolfe (3 acres), Ed Peterson (0.8 acre), Gene Riegelsberger (2 acres), Bob Hiltabiddle (1.8 acres), Charles & Bill DeChant (3.2 acres), David Hawley (4 acres), and Wesley Walter (1.5 acres). Although all are gone now, the locations of these former greenhouses are shown on the accompanying map.

The annual greenhouse tomato production took place in two cycles. Seeds would normally be started in hotbeds in late October or November and by late December or January seedlings could be planted in greenhouse rows from 160 to 200 feet long. The tomato harvest would begin between Valentine's and St. Patrick's Day. This first picking would typically yield approximately 15,000 to 18,000 baskets per acre (each basket weighted about 8 lbs). The expired plants, up to 18 feet in length, would be pulled out in July, the ground sterilized to kill any fungus or weed seeds, and the second cycle would begin. Large boilers were used to produce the steam for the sterilization process. Farm ponds, and later (1960s) city water from Elyria, were used to supply the millions of gallons of water required for irrigation and sterilization. City water proved to be superior to pond water, especially in reducing boiler-clogging problems. The second harvest generally lasted from late September to Thanksgiving. Lower sunlight levels for the second picking resulted in small yields, about 6,000 to 9,000 baskets per acre. Under ideal conditions, a grower could expect to gross over $100,000 per acre if tomatoes were being retailed at $1.00/lb.

Technology innovation in the greenhouse industry of the mid-twentieth century came from two sources: (1) the growers themselves and (2) research centers such as Ohio State University's Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) at Wooster. Soil testing was unknown in the early stages of the industry before OARDC implemented nutrient-level tests in both the soil and in plant tissues. The introduction of water-soluble fertilizers contributed to greater yields—from the late 1920s to the 1970s tomato production more than doubled. To reduce bacterial and fungal contamination, growers switched to a mulch containing peanut hulls, as compared to straw and animal manure that had been used for many years. Another innovation of the mid-1960s was a special generating unit that burned a mixture of natural gas and air to produce carbon dioxide, which enriched the greenhouse atmosphere speeding photosynthesis and increasing plant growth and tomato production. Research identified carbon dioxide (CO_2) as the most limiting factor in the growth of greenhouse crops. Normal atmospheric conditions



U.S. Geological Survey topographic map of Sheffield's North Ridge showing the location of greenhouses in 1979.

Hiltabiddle Greenhouse on Hoag Drive in 1992 (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Directory of Sheffield Village Greenhouses

Greenhouse Name	Original Owner	Built	Acres	Major Crop(s)	Last Owner	Demolished
Hoag's Greenhouses	*John Hoag*	*1927*	*4.2*	*Tomatoes & cucumbers*	*John E. Hoag*	*1992*
McAllister Greenhouses	*Walter McAllister*	*1947*	*2.6*	*Tomatoes*	*William Spierings*	*1987*
Laskin Greenhouses	*John Laskin*	*1949*	*0.7*	*Tomatoes*	*John Laskin*	*1978*
DeChant Greenhouses	*Charles & Wm. DeChant*	*1953*	*3.2*	*Tomatoes & cucumbers*	*Charles & William Dechant*	*2004*
Thomas Wolfe Greenhouses	*Thomas Wolfe*	*1955*	*3.0*	*Tomatoes & radishes*	*Thomas Wolfe*	*1996*
Peterson Greenhouses	*Edmond Peterson*	*1956*	*0.8*	*Tomatoes*	*Edmond Peterson*	*1983*
Riegelsberger Greenhouses	*Gene Riegelsberger*	*1957*	*2.0*	*Tomatoes*	*Maria Gardens*	*2006*
Hiltabiddle Greenhouses	*Robert Hiltabiddle*	*1958*	*1.8*	*Tomatoes & cucumbers*	*Robert Hiltabiddle*	*1995*
Walter Greenhouses	*Wesley Walter*	*1958*	*1.5*	*Tomatoes*	*Willoway Nursery*	*2006*
Hawley Greenhouses	*David Hawley*	*1960*	*4.0*	*Tomatoes*	*Hawley (J. & A. Lyons,(mgrs)*	*1985*

of 300 parts per million (ppm) of CO_2 were found to be limiting, while 1,500 to 2,000 ppm produced the most optimal growth. This innovation was dubbed "the best thing that happened to the tomato since it came inside out of the cold."

The greenhouse growers in Sheffield, Avon, and communities to the east belonged to a cooperative association in Berea, Ohio known as the Greenhouse Vegetables Packing Company. Growers would truck their produce to this facility where it would be sorted, graded, and packed for distribution to markets. Starting in 1981, growers would load their tomatoes and cucumbers into 30-lb. tubs that were color coded to identify the particular greenhouse where the produce was grown. At peak production, approximately 90 greenhouse growers in northeastern Ohio belonged to the association. Another organization from downtown Cleveland, known as the Cleveland Growers Marketing Company handled the sales and distribution of the tomato crop. In 1971 these two organizations merged. Several local growers, including Bud Hoag, Tom Wolfe, and Bob Hiltabiddle, served as officers in these organizations.

In addition to the amortization cost of constructing the greenhouse, growers also had to cope with ever-rising fuel costs to heat the greenhouses, and the necessity to hire temporary labor to pick the tomato crop. The practice of hiring pickers for most North Ridge farmers in Sheffield and Avon (not just greenhouse growers) in the 1940s to 1970s was to take a truck into South Lorain neighborhoods to recruit Mexican migrants and European "DPs" (World War II displaced persons) as "day pickers" who would be paid at the end of each work day.

Another concern was proper pollination of the tomato blossoms—clusters of 3 to 7 yellow flowers, each about 1 inch across. In the greenhouse, where natural wind pollination was not possible, it had to be effected by either shaking plants once a day or using a mechanical vibrator. Overwatering could also be a problem, which was overcome by using drip irrigation methods. However, the weather could be the worst enemy. On June 8, 1953 a devastating tornado hit the Sheffield greenhouses—75% of Hoag's Greenhouses was destroyed. Because of the potential of tiny glass shards in the tomatoes, the entire crop had to be destroyed. Adversity can bring out the best in people—the next day growers and friends from all over northeastern Ohio arrived with tools in hand to begin the task of rebuilding the greenhouses. Several returned to work nights glazing the greenhouses.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s a number of other factors conspired to cause the decline and eventual demise of the greenhouse industry in Sheffield and surrounding communities along North Ridge. In December 1989 a killing frost in Florida destroyed that state's tomato crop. Growers there scrambled to replant, resulting in a glut of Florida tomatoes later in the year in direct competition with the greenhouse tomatoes of northeastern Ohio. Also, Mexican grown tomatoes were being imported and sold at prices below the cost of growing tomatoes locally. Continually escalating fuel prices and tougher and tougher EPA regulations made it impossible to produce tomatoes at a profit. Many growers found themselves in debt—some in Sheffield were unable to pay back loans as high as $300,000 without selling off their property to developers. Tragically, three northeastern Ohio growers attempted suicide and two succeeded. Ohio

Interior of Hoag's Greenhouses in 1967 (courtesy of Jack Hoag).

Sterilization process in the Hoag's Greenhouses (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Bob Hiltabiddle spraying tomato plants in Hiltabiddle Greenhouses in the 1980s (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Construction of Hoag's Greenhouses in 1937 (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Jack Hoag (left) and Bud Hoag (right) display produce from Hoag's Greenhouses in 1976.

Construction of McAllister Greenhouses in the 1950s (courtesy of Patricia Riegelsberger).

EPA was relentless in its prosecution of emission standards for greenhouse boilers to the point where one Sheffield grower was fined $10,000 for trying to stay in business. Some switched to growing flowers, but environmental regulations made even this impossible.

One by one the growers were put out of business, Hoag—the oldest greenhouse in Sheffield—closed in 1991, while DeChant—by using creative marketing schemes—was able to hold on until 2003. Two others of the original greenhouses remained in Sheffield until 2006, being used to raise ornamental shrubbery and flowers. When Maria Gardens closed (formerly Riegelsberger Greenhouses) and Willoway Nursery tore down the Wesley Walter Greenhouses that same year, the final chapter of a once flourishing Sheffield industry was written.

Jack Hoag, Bob and Marilou (Hoag) Hiltabiddle, Patricia (McAllister) Riegelsberger, Bill and Chuck DeChant, and Jessie Root graciously supplied much of the information and photographs for this article. These families initiated the greenhouse industry in Sheffield and were responsible for many of the technological advancements, which enhanced this industry in northeastern Ohio. The Editor is pleased to gratefully acknowledge their contributions to this article.

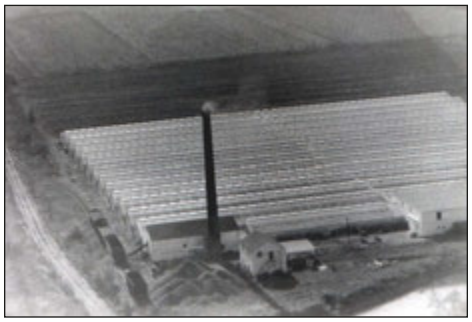
McAllister Greenhouses in the 1960s; boiler house at center (courtesy of Patricia Riegelsberger). The McAllister home at the right in the photograph now houses the Sheffield History Center.

Aerial view toward the west of Sheffield Village greenhouses; top—Walter Greenhouses, center—Riegelsberger Greenhouses, bottom—McAllister Greenhouses (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Aerial view toward the east of Sheffield Village greenhouses with Abbe Road in the foreground; from left to right—Wolfe Greenhouses, Peterson Greenhouses, Hiltabiddle Greenhouses, and Hoag's Greenhouses.

Aerial view toward the east of Sheffield Village greenhouses with Abbe Road in the foreground; upper right—Hoag's Greenhouses and center—Hiltabiddle Greenhouses (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Aerial view toward the northeast of Sheffield greenhouses; upper left—Laskin Greenhouses and lower right—McAllister Greenhouses (courtesy of Patricia Riegelsberger).



Aerial view of Hoag's Greenhouses in 1940s. Note railroad siding and rail cars loaded with coal for boilers (courtesy of Jack Hoag).

Aerial view of DeChant Greenhouses on Detroit Road in the 1950s (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Tornado damage to Hoag's Greenhouses in June 1953 (courtesy of Jack Hoag).

Automobiles lining the drive to the Hoag's Greenhouses as area growers rush to aid and repair tornado damage (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Area growers aiding in the repair of tornado-damaged Hoag's Greenhouses (courtesy of Bob and Marilou Hiltabiddle).

Family History Notes:

Mayflower Descendents in Sheffield

William Brewster (born in 1566) and his wife, Mary Love, were among the first Pilgrims to sail to America aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. On the shore of Plymouth Bay they founded Plymouth Colony. Second in authority to Governor William Bradford, Brewster served as Administrator of the colony and Elder of the first church at Plymouth.

Mayflower II*, replica of the Pilgrim's ship in Plymouth Bay (1987).*

The Land of Promise*, Percy Moran's painting of the Pilgrim's arrival.*

Victorian artist's impression of the Pilgrim's landing on Plymouth Rock on December 21, 1620 (courtesy of Pilgrim Hall).

In 1627 William Brewster and seven other Plymouth companions assumed the Colony's entire debt by agreeing to repay the money the colonists had borrowed to bring them to America. This they did by procuring furs and lumber from the lands surrounding the Colony and selling them in England. Two generations later Mary Brewster married John Turner, then another two generations later Lucretia Turner married Joseph Calkins, then after five more generations Louisa Calkins married Sherman Brainerd, and finally Minnie May Brainerd married Wilfred Brown.

Thus in October 1922, ten generations after William Brewster arrived onboard the *Mayflower*, Edward Brewster Brown, Sr. (1904-1990) settled in Sheffield with his mother, Minnie May (Brainerd) Brown (1861-1947). Edward's father, Wilfred Brown (1861-1922), had died earlier that year when he was dragged to death by a team of young horses on Murray Ridge Road. Edward wanted to try gardening and bought a small farm of 23.5 acres on Detroit Road at the Abbe Road crossing. In 1928 Edward married Leona Meyers (1905-1976) and here they raised their family of six children: Eileen May (b. 1929), Edward Brewster, Jr. (b. 1931), Sara Ann (b.1933), Marilyn Jean (b. 1934), Joan Zittella (b. 1936), and Nancy Lee (b. 1939).

Today, two of their children, Edward Brewster, Jr. (known as "Bud" to his friends) and Joan (Brown) Perry still live in Sheffield, not far from the original homestead. Bud served as Garfield Cemetery Superintendent from 1952 to 1956 and Chief of the Sheffield Village Fire Department from 1966 to 1990. He and his wife, Margaret, now operate the Breezewood Party House and the Carousel Swim & Recreation Club on Lake Breeze Road. Recently, Bud Brown donated two genealogies to the Historical Society: *Brown Family History* by Corinne Brown (1968) and *Genealogies of the Brainerd, Calkins, Stebbins, Brown, and Reynolds Families* by Minnie May Brown (1927, with 1942 addendum), and a booklet of *Garfield Cemetery Inscriptions* copied by E. H. Sherman and G. E. Mettler (1929). The Historical Society gratefully acknowledges these valuable contributions to our collections. We are pleased to recognize the historic heritage of the Brown Family.

Edward Brewster Brown, Jr., Sheffield Village Fire Chief (1966-1990).

Family History Notes:

The Lindersmith-McAllister Family in the American Revolution

In the December issue of *The Village Pioneer* (Vol. 2, No. 4) we celebrated Sheffield Village's first mayor, Clyde B. McAllister (1885-1955). Since that time, we have received some fascinating information about the McAllister Family heritage from Clyde's niece and nephew (Eleanor Pavlish and Donald Kriebel) and a great nephew (Thomas Smith). Clyde's parents were James and Katherine (Lindersmith) McAllister. The Lindersmith Family name has been traced back to the mid-1700s and the War for Independence. Katherine Lindersmith (1865–1922) married James McAllister on October 30, 1883. They had five children: Clyde, Viola, Margaret, Jeanette, and Bernice. Katherine's parents were Isaac Lindersmith (1827–1894) and Martha Whittaker (1832–?). Isaac's parents were Peter Lindersmith (1785–1845) and Susanna Ehehart (1787–1850) and Peter's parents were Joseph Lindersmith (1751–1817) and Nancy Anna Bauman (1754–1836) of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Fifer and drummers in the Spirit of 76 *(painting by Archibald Willard, courtesy of the Ohio Historical Center).*

Joseph Lindersmith is of particular interest because he was a soldier in Washington's Continental Army throughout the Revolutionary War. Joseph was born in Switzerland on March 19, 1751 and settled in Pennsylvania before the start of the War. He joined the Pennsylvania troops and served as bugler and fifer during the entire War. He participated in the battle of Yorktown and was present at the surrender of British General Cornwallis in 1781, which ended the War. After the War, Joseph settled in Hanover Township, Columbiana County, Ohio

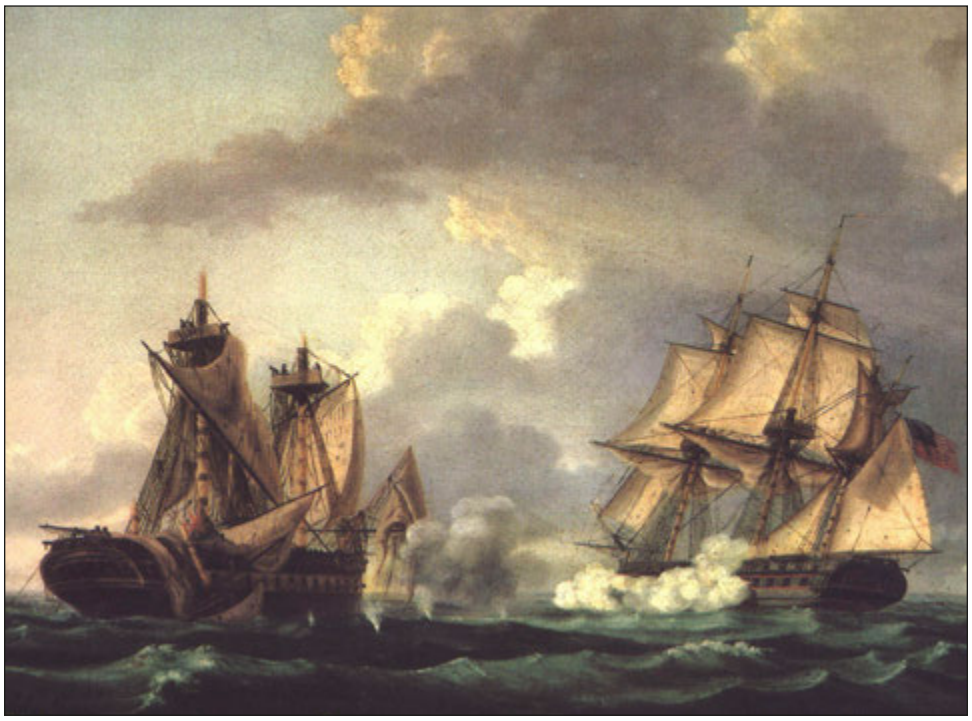
Patriot troops, led by Col. Alexander Hamilton, storm redoubt protecting British garrison at Yorktown on October 14, 1781. The defeat of the British in this battle ended the Revolutionary War (painting by Howard Pyle, courtesy of the Wilmington Society of Fine Arts).

where he and his wife Nancy Anna raised five children: Daniel (b. 1773), Elizabeth, Jacob (b. 1779), John, and Peter (b. 1785). Joseph died in Hanover Township on June 10, 1817. His great granddaughter, Katherine, married James McAllister in nearby Millport in Franklin Township, Columbiana County. Here, their son Clyde was born on March 2, 1885. In 1895 the McAllister Family moved to Avon Township in Lorain County and in 1928 Clyde settled on North Ridge in Sheffield Township. Margaret married Herbert Peter Kriebel and the couple also settled on North Ridge. Today, three descendents of Katherine and James McAllister still live in Sheffield Village, Eleanor Pavlish and Donald Kriebel, grandchildren (children of Margaret) and Patricia Riegelsberger, a great granddaughter (granddaughter of Clyde). Thomas Smith, a great grandson of Katherine and James McAllister, lives in nearby Elyria.

Katherine (Lindersmith) McAllister (1865-1922), left, wife of James McAllister and great granddaughter of Revolutionary War hero James Lindersmith and watch worn in her portrait, top (courtesy of Donald Kriebel).

Family History Notes:

Seafaring Heroes of Sheffield's Day Family



British and American frigates battle in the War of 1812 (painting by Al Freni, courtesy of Historical Society of Pennsylvania).

A walk through Garfield Cemetery or a visit to the Pioneer Cemetery on East River Road can be a peaceful way to learn more about those who founded our Village. One of the prominent family names you will encounter is DAY. Members of the Day Family were among the first pioneers to settle here nearly 200 years ago. Today, there are a few descendents of this hardy family who make their home in Sheffield and in nearby Avon. The following is a brief history of the first 10 generations of the Day Family to live in America, focused on the lineage of Day descendents still in our community.

The saga of the Day Family in America commences with the emigration of Robert Day (1604-1648), and his wife Mary (1606-1635), from Ipswich, England to Boston in 1634 aboard the barque *Elizabeth*. By 1639 Robert was a resident of Hartford, Connecticut and had married his second wife, Editha Stebbins. Their first son, Thomas Day (~1639-1712), married Sarah Cooper in 1659. Thomas and Sarah resided in Springfield, Massachusetts where they had seven sons and three daughters. Their fourth son, John (1673-1742), lived in West Springfield and married Mary Smith in 1697; they had four sons and five daughters. Their fourth son, William (1715-1797), who spent his latter years in Sheffield, Massachusetts, was for many years engaged in seafaring and had the command of several vessels. As such, his life was filled with stirring events and thrilling adventures.

Captain William Day (~1760), naval hero of the French and Indian War (painting by John Singleton Copley).

During the French and Indian War (1752-1763), the American phase of the worldwide war fought between France and Great Britain for control of the vast colonial territory of North America, William Day commanded naval vessels in the service of the British Crown—he held his commission as Captain under the King of England. His ship was captured at one point and he was taken as prisoner to France where he was detained for two years. When released, he pleaded the privilege of taking his old boots with him, which was granted—unknown to the grantors, the boot heels were fill with gold guineas.

On his return to England in 1760, William Day was given command of another warship. He handpicked a fine crew to sail against the enemy. In the Bay of Biscay his frigate encountered a fleet of five French ships. The lead ship, commanded by an Admiral, was larger than the Day's frigate and considerably in advance of the other vessels in the fleet. Capt. Day engaged and captured the Admiral's ship before the others caught up. With neither vessel being much injured, Capt. Day divided his force with the captured ship. He attacked the remaining ships of the French fleet with such spirit that they all surrendered and he was able to bring them

Captain James Day (~1812), naval hero of the War of 1812 (painting by Daniel Huntington).

safely into Plymouth Harbor. The British Admiralty honored Capt. Day for his bravery and achievement in capturing the French fleet by commissioning a painting of him on the deck of his ship by noted Boston artist, John Singleton Copley (1737-1815). Copley spent much of his life in London and some of his most celebrated portraits are of the English Royal family. His *Siege of Gibraltar* hangs in Guildhall, London's historic council hall, the foundation of which was laid in 1411.

As another sidelight, it is interesting to note that while Capt. William Day was fighting the French in Europe, Capt. James Cook, the famed explorer/navigator of the South Pacific a decade later, was using his cartographic skills to map the boulder-strewn bed of the St. Lawrence River in preparation for General James Wolfe's successful invasion of French Quebec and capture of Montreal. Working under the range of French guns, often at night, Cook charted and buoyed a safe passage through the treacherous maze of rocks, shoals, and shifting sandbars. In June 1759, the entire British armada of over 200 ships made the crossing without a single casualty, earning Cook the designation as "Master Surveyor" which greatly influenced his selection as commander of the Pacific Expedition in 1768.

When ashore, William Day made his home at Sheffield in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Soon after the War, he retired from the sea and settled in Sheffield with his third wife, Rhoda Hubbell of Litchfield, Connecticut. Captain Day was an active patriot in the American Revolution and participated in town affairs until his death in 1797 at age 82. William and Rhoda had five children there, two of which—Mary Day Root (1772-1856) and Capt. John Day (1774-1827)—journeyed to Ohio with their families in 1816, founding the community of Sheffield in the Black River valley.

In January 1815, Capt. John Day and Capt. Jabez Burrell purchased a tract of land now known as Sheffield, in Lorain County, Ohio (Township 7, Range 17 of the Connecticut Western Reserve) from General William Hart, who had purchased the tract from the Connecticut Land Company three years earlier, but had never visited Ohio. After persuading several other Berkshire friends to share in the purchase with them, in June of that year they came by horseback to explore the Township and select lots for themselves and friends, returning home before autumn. A year later, on July 27, 1816 Capt. John Day and his family arrived at their destination in Ohio after a journey in covered wagons for more than three weeks. Henry and Mary Day Root had arrived several months earlier (April 3, 1816) and settled on French Creek near the present Abbe Road bridge. However, Capt. Joshua Smith, with his 17-year-old son Douglas, was the first family to arrive (November 13, 1815), selecting land and building a log cabin where the Sheffield Village Municipal Complex now stands. Within a year the New Englanders had settled 1,600 acres and named their community Sheffield. True to their traditions, the Day Family and their friends immediately set up educational and religious institutions. A school, church, and town hall were built on East River Road near the mouth of French Creek, while about a half mile upstream on the Black River, a dam, raceway tunnel, sawmill, and grist mill were constructed.

Mary Day married Henry Root (1767-1829) a son of Revolutionary War veteran Col. Aaron Root, in Sheffield, Massachusetts in 1800, where they had three sons and three daughters—all of whom made the journey to Ohio through the wilderness as children. Their eldest son, Aaron (1801-1865), was a Great Lakes and Atlantic Ocean ship captain who is credited with using his boats to carry runaway slaves to freedom in Canada before the Civil War. Frederic O. Day (1840-1921), a grandson of Capt. John Day and cousin of Capt. Aaron Root, would often tell of his most exciting experience—a voyage across the Atlantic Ocean in 1859 with Capt. Root, sailing from Lorain harbor via an early Welland Canal to Liverpool, England aboard the barque *W. S. Pierson*. The trip over was prosperous and successful, carrying a cargo of gunstocks and barrel staves, but the return trip was a very stormy one. The ship's navigator had elected to stay in England and in mid-ocean the ship sprung a leak. They had much difficulty in mending it and bringing the ship safely the American shore, very much delayed. Meanwhile the provisions had run low, so hunger and thirst were added to the hardships of the crew. Fortunately, the return cargo included British cheese that helped sustain the crew.

Capt. Aaron Root married Esther Buck (1811-1872) in 1828 and they had five sons and four daughters. Their third son, Edward (1834-1897), was a sergeant with the 87th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. After the War, Edward married Julia Garfield (1843-1922), youngest daughter of the first settler on North Ridge—Milton Garfield. They had two sons and a daughter. Their youngest son, Henry Garfield Root (1885-1971) married Ada Isabel Rider (1889-1977) in 1912 and had two daughters and a son. Their daughters, Ruth Tempe (1913-2007) and Esther Kathryne (1917-1998), had children—two of which still live in Sheffield Village—Donald J. Hammer and Charles E. Herdendorf. Henry and Ada Root's son, Frank (1914-2006), made his home in neighboring Avon, Ohio where his wife, Jessie Mittelstead Root, and a son, Frank A. Root, Jr., still reside.

Lydia (Austin) Day (1770-1854), wife of Captain John Day. Lydia and her husband are buried in Sheffield's Pioneer Cemetery.

Graves of Captain John and Lydia (Austin) Day and those of Henry and Mary (Day) Root in Sheffield's Pioneer Cemetery.

Day Family (continued)

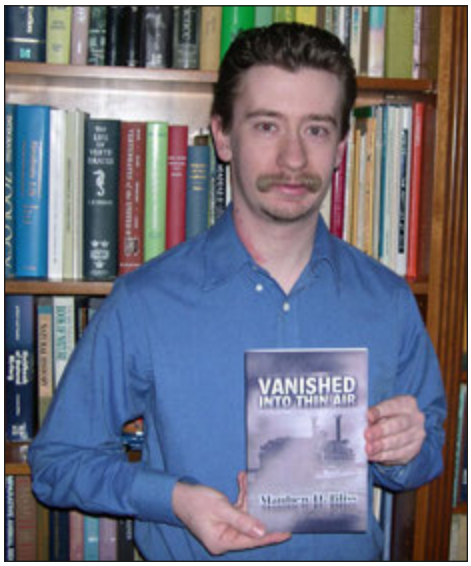
Mary's bother, Capt. John Day a veteran of the War of 1812, married Lydia Austin in 1794 in Sheffield, Massachusetts. Mary and John's brother, Capt. James Day also served in the War of 1812. Like his father William, James won fame in naval warfare. While in command of an American vessel, he was pursued by an overpowering British squadron in Long Point Sound. Rather than surrender his ship and be captured, he ran his vessel upon the rocks at Point Judith, escaping to fight another day. After the War, James lived for a time with his brother in Sheffield, Massachusetts.

John and Lydia Day had twelve children, nine of which were alive to make the journey to Ohio in 1816, and two of which were born after the family settled in Sheffield, Ohio. Their eldest son, William (1796-1889), married Augusta Burrell (1811-1887), daughter of Isaac Burrell, in Sheffield, Ohio in 1832 where he served as a judge. They had seven children; the eldest son, William Augustus Day (1835-1910), married Mary Steele (~1840-1925) of Oberlin, Ohio in 1861. William and Mary built the 1879 Italianate-style farmhouse that still stands on East River Road south of James Day Park. Their only son, William Steele Day (1863-1941), married Maggie Pigg of London, Kentucky in 1898. Their first son, Sumner William Day (1899-1983) married Irma Nagy (1914-1961) in 1931—their daughter, Carol (Day) Minda, resides in the William and Mary Day house built by her great grandparents.

Information for the article was graciously supplied by Edgar Day Gates, Martha Miller Leveille, Carol Day Minda, the late Frank A. Root, Sr., and Meredith Williams.

Home of William Augustus Day (1835-1910) and Mary (Steele) Day (1840-1925) on East River Road, built in 1879 (from Lorain County: Picturesque & Industrial Features, 1906).

Sheffield Author Publishes First Book



Matthew D. Bliss of Pin Oak Circle, Sheffield Village, displays his first published work, Vanished Into Thin Air.

Vanished Into Thin Air, a 137-page Lake Erie adventure story written by Matthew D. Bliss, Sheffield Village resident and charter member of the Historical Society, was released this year by Publish America. The novel opens in 1905 aboard the pleasure steamer *Erie Dane* as it leaves Detroit for a cruise across Lake Erie. A once in a century storm engulfs the vessel as it disappears into thin air with no trace of its 114 passengers ever being found. One hundred years later, as three college friends board a ferry to the Lake Erie islands, another violent storm erupts and suddenly they find themselves back in time aboard the *Erie Dane*. What will become of them and the long-lost passengers they encounter? You will have to read the novel to find out!

Matt's book can be ordered from Publish America, PO Box 151, Frederick, MD 21705, phone (301) 695-1707 or www.PublishAmerica.com. The book's ISBN number is 1-60441-669-6 and the price is $19.95. Congratulations Matt!

Historical Society Applies for Grants and Tax-exempt Recognition

The Sheffield Village Historical Society has applied for two grants to provide additional resources for the use of Society members. The first application was submitted to Lorain County Solid Waste Management District of the County Commissioners on October 23, 2007 for two refurbished computer systems. We requested the refurbished computers for the following tasks: System No. 1—dedicated to archiving historical data on Sheffield and its environs as well as our planned *Virtual Museum* containing images of the artifacts in the Society's collections; and System No. 2—dedicated for Society business and correspondence, including membership data and society transactions. On December 14, 2007 we received notice that our request had been approved and the computers arrived shortly thereafter. They are now located in the Sheffield History Center and we are in the process of setting up files. System No. 1 will be available to Society members and others wishing to conduct historical research on our area. System No. 2 will be secure and restricted to official Society business. The Society thanks the Lorain County Board of Commissioners for initiating this worthwhile program and for their generosity in providing the computer systems that will help us achieve our mission.

The second grant application was to American Association for State and Local History for a collection of 22 resource books recommended by the Institute of Museums and Libraries for the successful operation of historical societies and museums. In our application we pointed that Sheffield is fortunate that descendants of early settlers still live in the area and many have graciously contributed documents, photographs, and artifacts to the Society. We stressed that out our greatest need was for information on the proper archiving and preservation of these historically important objects. We outlined our plans to transcribe, electronically scan, or digitally record the documents, maps, drawings, and photographs, and then preserve the original materials. As a group of enthusiastic, but basically untrained volunteers, the resource books applied for would provide us with the instruction needed to undertake proper storage, climate control, display, and handling of delicate historic artifacts. On February 20th the Society was notified that we were selected as recipient of the Institute of Museum and Library Services' *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*. The collection, which will be mailed to us by the American Association for State and Local History, will consist of essential texts, DVD's, charts, online resources, and other materials carefully assembled by experts throughout the nation to ensure that our valuable collections receive the best possible care, so they can be preserved for future generations.

Refurbished computer system from the Lorain County Solid Waste Management District.

The Sheffield Village Historical Society has applied to the U.S. Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, to obtain recognition of exemption from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a public charitable and educational institution. The application was prepared by our Treasurer, which turned out to be a rather involved process resulting in a submittal document that amounted to 74 pages. An important aspect of 501(c)(3) status is that donors who contribute to the Society will be eligible to deduct the value of their contributions from their federal income tax. The application was submitted on January 25, 2008 and we expect to learn the results in the next several months.

Sheffield Village Hall belfry with restored bell.

Sheffield Village Hall Bell Rings Again

For the past seven decades the belfry tower at the Sheffield Village Hall has been without a bell. The original bell from the 1883 schoolhouse was removed around 1940 to accommodate a fire siren, which in turn was taken down when the volunteer firefighters were replaced by a full time department in the 1990s. In 2006, the Sheffield Village Historical Society located a similar bell cast in 1886 in Hillsboro, Ohio and purchased it for the Village. Ron Foster, Society vice-president, sandblasted the bell, straightened the yoke, brazed a small crack, and applied a protective coat of paint. In December 2007, the Village's Service Department mounted the new bell in the elegant Queen Anne-style bell tower. A rope to ring the bell was reinstalled in the front vestibule of the hall. It leads through the original opening to the tower and is attached to an arm on the side of the bell. Next time you visit the Village Hall try your hand at bell ringing.

Ron Forster displays restored 1886 bell.

New Metro Parks Bridge

Crossing the Black River downstream from 31st Street, this footbridge is scheduled to be opened in May 2008 and will be part of a new 3-mile northern extension of the Bridgeway Trail.

Society Organization

The Sheffield Village Historical Society and Cultural Center is a charitable nonprofit 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. For more information contact Kathy Keefer, Secretary (440-934-6015), or Eddie Herdendorf, President (440-934-1514 herdendorf@aol.com), or Ron Forster, Vice President (440-949-7638). Offices for the Society are located at:

Sheffield Village Historical Society
Garfield Farms 4921 Detroit Road
Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054
440-934-1514

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

Historical Society newsletters for can be found on the Village of Sheffield, Ohio official website: 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

Sheffield Trivia

Answers

1. Jabez Burrell House (1820s)
2. Greenhouse Tomatoes
3. French Creek
4. 1957
5. 6-man football team
6. 1924
7. Inter-urban Railway (Lake Shore Electric Railway System)
8. Lake Breeze House
9. Randall's Grove
10. 103rd O.V.I. (Ohio Volunteer Infantry)
11. 5 (BP, Speedway, Sam's Club, Get-Go, Dyna Guard)
12. SR 301
13. 4 (SR 2, SR 254, SR 301, SR 611)
14. 8 (Garfield Bridge or SR 254, 31st Bridge, 2 RR bridges, 4 Metro Parks footbridges
15. Abandoned glacial lake beach ridge (Lake Warren, about 12,800 to 12,500 years ago)
16. 7 (Lorain, Sheffield Lake, Avon Lake, Avon, North Ridgeville, Elyria, Sheffield Twp)
17. SE corner of Sheffield Village where it meets with Avon, North Ridgeville, & Elyria (near LCCC)
18. 12 (Colorado Ave–2; Detroit Rd–5; Abbe–5, excluding Detroit & Colorado lights)
19. 6 (Bass Ford & Mazda, Abraham Nissan; Tri-County Kia, Spitzer Dodge & Mitsubishi)
20. Paleo-Indians (about 10,000 years ago)
21. 1934
22. Clyde McAllister
23. Lorain County Metro Parks
24. St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church (1907)
25. *The Village Pioneer*

TOTAL POINTS: 25

20—Village Expert
15—Village Savvy
10—Village Stay-at-Home
5—Village Hopeless
1—Village Idiot

Ask Your Friends to Join the Sheffield Village Historical Society

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 _____

_____

Special Interests in Sheffield History? _____