

THE VILLAGE PIONEER



Newsletter of the Sheffield Village Historical Society
& Cultural Center



Lilacs in bloom at the historic Kinney-Root Homestead (Spring 2008).

Restoration Planned for Historic East River Homestead

Some 150 years ago a simple farmhouse of pleasing proportions was built on East River Road by Douglas Smith for his son Perry. The house, located at 4705 East River Road, has stood the test of time, but time has taken its toll. A decision had to be made whether to invest funds for major repairs or to tear the old house down. For the past 65 years the property has been in the Garfield-Root family and it was hard for the family to think of having the home demolished. Then a violent rainstorm came along in September, tearing off a portion of the roof and collapsing the dining room ceiling. The decision could not be prolonged—the homestead was to be saved, involving a nearly complete restoration of the interior and exterior. About 85% of the interior work was completed this past fall and winter, as well as a new roof, doors, and windows. When spring breaks, work will begin on the exterior.

The history of this house is fascinating and involves several individuals who were important in the formation of our Village. Seventeen-year-old Douglas Smith (1799-1862), with his father Capt. Joshua Smith (1771-1817), were the first permanent settlers in Sheffield, arriving in November 1815 from Sheffield, Massachusetts. Douglas married Sarah Burrell (1802-1854), daughter of Capt. Jabez and Mary Burrell in 1824—the first wedding to take place at the Burrell Homestead. In 1833 Douglas purchased a tract of land from John B. Garfield on North Ridge, which included the land on East River Road. In the same year he built an elegant Greek Revival-style house for his family on North Ridge (see accompanying North Ridge article) and later the house on East River Road. Douglas was an accomplished carpenter and builder, constructing several homes in Sheffield, as well as serving as Justice of the Peace for Lorain County.

In 1857 Douglas granted the East River property to his son Perry and they most likely built the farmhouse, a granary, and a large barn at that time. It is believed that Perry D. Smith and his family lived in the house and worked the farm for a number of years before selling it in 1869. We know with some certainty that the house was standing in 1869—a March 1912 newspaper article documents that Judson Kinney (1838-1926) and his wife Mary (Myers) Kinney (1838-1925) purchased the house and moved in 43 years earlier. In January 1917, the Kinneys sold the property to the American Sheet and Tin Plate Company, later to become the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corporation, in anticipation of another steel mill to be built on the River. This was not to be and in 1944, the house and 10.5 acres of surrounding land was purchased by Henry Garfield Root (1885-1971) and his wife Ada Isabel (Rider) Root (1889-1977), returning it to the



Kinney-Root Homestead on East River Road, with the old granary.

original family that owned the property, of which the current owners are members. Because of the long ownership by the Kinneys and the Roots (113 years), it is now known as the Kinney-Root House.

Recent Happenings at the Historical Society

The near record snow fall this winter has made it a little difficult to get to the History Center, but the Board of Directors has still managed to meet and we have also had a few other members' activities. The following pictures illustrate some of the get-togethers. On December 4, 2008, the Brookside High School Class of 1957 invited their former classmates and friends of Coach Sevits to *An Evening with Dick and Eleanor Sevits* at the Sandusky Yacht Club. The evening included a wonderful dinner at the holiday-decorated clubhouse, followed by Dick Sevits sharing color slides of superb industrial arts projects produced by his students at Brookside. The idea for the evening came from the interview with Coach Sevits in the December issue of *The Village Pioneer*. The Yacht Club arrangements were courtesy of Dan and Margie Malloy.

was warmly received followed by tasty pastries, especially a cookie shaped like an eagle with a cashew nose to commemorate Inauguration Day.

At the February 4th meeting of the Avon Historical Society, Jean Fischer and Eddie Herdendorf presented a lecture on *Avon's Lake Erie Islands*. Avon's original proprietor, Pierpont Edwards, also received Lake Erie's Bass Islands archipelago as part of his 1807 purchase of Western Reserve land from the Connecticut Land Company. Jean talked about the history of the larger Bass Islands, and Eddie discussed the naming and history of Gibraltar Island in Put-in-Bay harbor, where he was director of The Ohio State University's Lake Erie research center—Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory—from 1973 to 1988.



Former Brookside High School students and their spouses gather at Sandusky Yacht Club to enjoy a presentation by Coach Dick Sevits.



Christmas at Sheffield History Center.

The Historical Society appreciates the dedication of our officers and board of trustees. To show our thanks for all their efforts, a pot luck Christmas dinner was held at the Sheffield History Center on December 7, 2008. Following a social hour of good fellowship, and a delicious meal, Eddie and Ricki Herdendorf presented a talk on their 1994 adventure, *Around the World by Private Jet*.

On January 20, 2009, at the invitation of the Berlin Heights Historical Society and the Berlin Heights Conservation Club, Eddie Herdendorf presented a lecture on *The Geology of the Old Woman Creek Watershed and Escarpment*. The lecture was given at Berlin Heights Congregational Church to a gathering of over 30 people on a very cold and snowy night. However, the talk



Lake Erie Islands presentation at the Avon Historical Society.

Grant Awarded to Produce North Ridge Guides

The Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byway Program and the Ohio Department of Transportation have awarded the Village of Sheffield a \$20,000 grant (80% Federal and 20% local match) to produce a full-color guidebook and a tri-fold brochure to the recently designated North Ridge Scenic Byway (August 2007) that runs through Sheffield and Avon along State Route 254. North Ridge was formed as a sandy beach along the shores of an ancient glacial lake some 12,000 years ago. Later it was used as an Indian trail and as sites for pioneer homesteads. Through the years many classical homes were built along the Byway followed by a variety of commercial establishments and recreational facilities. Together with the ridge itself and the deep ravine of the Black River, the Byway still offers scenic vistas of the natural environment.

The project will result in two types of high-quality guides to the North Ridge Scenic Byway. The first will be a full-color guidebook, which describes in detail the natural setting and cultural history of the corridor as well as presents a mile point-by-mile point log of noteworthy attributes and scenic vistas. The guidebook will be marketed to Byway travelers, educational institutions, and interested citizens. The second product will be a full color, tri-fold brochure, which outlines the natural and cultural features of the North Ridge Scenic Byway. The tri-fold brochure will be distributed free-of-charge by commercial establishments and public facilities along the Byway corridor.

This project is designed to benefit Byway travelers by enhancing their experience. The guides will explain the diverse assemblage of geological, botanical, native wildlife,



North Ridge streetscape—Detroit Road, Sheffield Village.

The guidebook and brochure will be produced as a collaborative effort by the Sheffield Village Historical Society and the Avon Historical Society. These Societies and EcoSphere Associates will provide the matching funds to conduct the research, write the guides, and do the preliminary layout. Federal funds will be used to do the final layout and print the guidebooks.

archaeological, historical, agricultural, recreational, and cultural features of the North Ridge Scenic Byway Corridor. The guides will be richly illustrated with color photographs, diagrams, and maps to delight and educate the traveler. The project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2010 with both guides ready for distribution.



Douglas Smith House, 4759 Detroit Road, Sheffield. Built in 1833, this Greek Revival farmhouse is typical of those erected in Lorain County in the early 19th century with its two-story main section and one-story wing at the side containing a recessed entrance porch. This house is distinguished by the excellent proportions of the heavy entablature over the main section (Sheffield Village Historical Society, photograph by Charles E. Herdendorf, June 11, 2006).



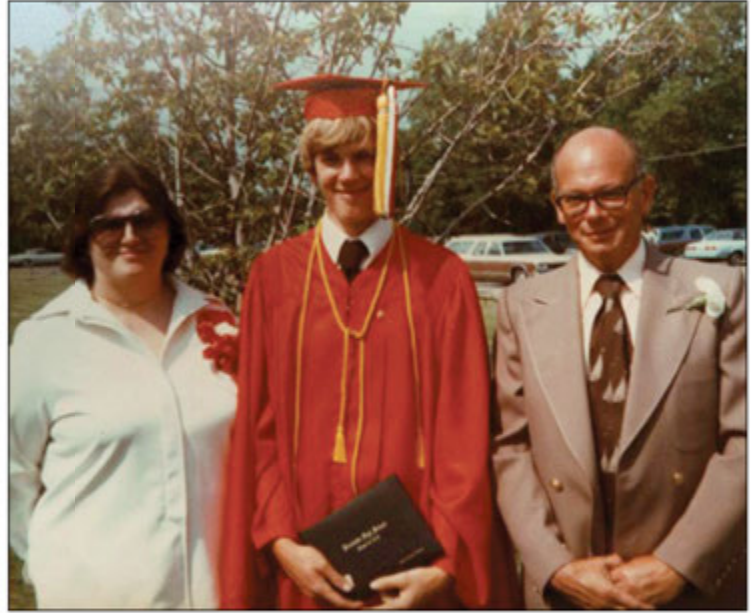
George Sweet House, 32345 Detroit Road, Avon. This circa 1840s house is also of Greek Revival style. The pride of the house is the front door entranceway and stairwell. The recessed door, framed by sidelights and transoms, opens into the wide hallway with the stairwell facing it. The newel post is gracefully turned, and tapered spindles are notched into the rail and treads (courtesy of Smithsonian Institution, photograph by Carl Waite, June 29, 1936).

Congratulations to Judge Walther

Sheffield Village Historical Society member James T. Walther was sworn in as Lorain County Family Court Judge on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at Trinity Evangelical Free Church in Amherst. Judge Walther replaces retiring Judge Frank Horvath of the Domestic Relations Court, which is now merged with the Probate Court to form the new Family Court. Judge Walther is a 1978 graduate of Brookside High School. He attended Cleveland State University and received his law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. His parents, Tom and Lea Walther are Charter Members of the Historical Society and make their home on Harris Road. Tom served as Chief of Police for the City of Sheffield Lake from 1961-1986.

Our congratulations to the Honorable Judge James T. Walther.

James Walther, flanked by his parents Lea and Thomas on his graduation from Brookside High School in 1978 (courtesy of Lea and Thomas Walther).



Avon Isle Nominated for the National Register of Historic Places

The Sheffield Village and Avon Historical Societies have joined forces in a collaborative effort to nominate the Avon Isle Dance Pavilion for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination process is rather involved and includes compiling documentation, conducting interviews, preparing a geographic/architectural/sociological description, assembling historic and current photographs, and writing a compelling statement of significance. After several years of effort by Ralph White, Jean Fischer, and Jack Smith of the Avon Historical Society and Eddie & Ricki Herdendorf of the Sheffield Village Historical Society, the final nomination documents were submitted to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office in January 2009. If the nomination is approved at the state level, it then progresses on the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service for final consideration.

Avon Isle was a popular dance pavilion from the 1920s through the 1970s where a wide variety of civic and social events were held. Interviews with residents of Avon and Sheffield who attended dances and other events there over 50 years ago reveal a colorful

history and a unique meeting place for men and women of diverse cultural backgrounds. The 50-by-70-foot dance pavilion known as Avon Isle is located in Avon Isle Park at 37080 Detroit Road in Avon, Ohio. The City of Avon owns the park, and the now vacant pavilion. The park includes a wooded picnic area along the winding banks of French Creek, which nearly encircles the park. Constructed in the 1920s, this one story pavilion with its low hip roof and its columned, full-façade porch possesses elements of both Prairie and Neo-Classical Revival architectural styles. With few exceptions, the exterior and interior of the building are remarkably unchanged from their original construction.

The City of Avon has recently received a grant to rebuild the bridge over French Creek that connects Detroit Road to the park and the pavilion. The City also plans to restore the dance pavilion as a civic center for the enjoyment of area residents.



Avon Isle Dance Pavilion (September 2005).



Sign at the Detroit Road entrance to Avon Isle Park (July 2005).

Calendar

April 9, 2009 (Thursday)—Spring Quarterly Meeting of the Historical Society Board at the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road at 7:00 pm. All Society members welcome.

April 15, 2009 (Wednesday)—Family Day at French Creek Nature Center and Burrell Homestead. Start at the Nature Center then visit the Homestead from 1:00–2:30 pm. Craft projects for the children.

May 9, 2009 (Saturday)—Spring wildflower walk at Metro Park's French Creek Reservation—Meet at the French Creek Nature Center at 2:00 pm, Guide: Leslie.

May 1-17, 2009—Metro Parks Underground Railroad Production, *Freedom's Light* by Kelley Boyer Sagert at the French Creek Nature Center, Colorado Avenue, Sheffield Village. Performances Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 pm, Sunday Matinee at 3:00 pm. Historian Matt Kocsis will also host re-enactments to complement the play on May 13, 14, and 16 at the Nature Center and the Burrell Homestead. Call French Creek (949-5200) or check the *Arrowhead* for more information.

May 31, 2009 (Sunday)—Spring wildflower walk at Metro Park's Black River Reservation—Meet at the Day's Dam Picnic Area (East 31st Street) at 2:00 pm, Guide: Jannah.

June 6, 2009 (Saturday)—Tour of the Burrell Homestead, 2792 East River Road, Sheffield Village. Arrive early to visit the grounds; tour will begin promptly at 11:00 am.

July 9, 2009 (Thursday)—Summer Quarterly Meeting of the Historical Society Board at the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road at 7:00 pm. All Society members welcome.

August 1, 2009 (Saturday)—Traditionally the first Saturday in August is a special time for Sheffield—on this date the Day-Austin-Root Reunion was held to celebrate the founding of our Village. This year the Society is reinvigorating the Reunion at the Burrell Homestead on East River Road. The 100th Reunion was held in August 1974, but none has been held since. This year, these families, the Historical Society, and Metro Parks invites all to attend this Reunion. Put it on your calendar—more details will be given in the June issue of *The Village Pioneer*. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the donation of the homestead to the Lorain County Metro Parks by the Burrell sisters.

September 19, 2009 (Saturday)—Open House and Tour of the Burrell Homestead. More details in June issue of *The Village Pioneer* and Metro Parks' *Arrowhead*.

September 26, 2009 (Saturday)—Sheffield Pride Day at French Creek Nature Center. More details in June issue of *The Village Pioneer*.

October 15, 2009 (Thursday)—Autumn Quarterly Meeting of the Historical Society Board at the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road at 7:00 pm. All Society members welcome.

New Water Trail Designated

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft has designated the lower reach of the Black River within the Village of Sheffield as a portion of the 27-mile long Lorain-Vermilion Water Trail. The water trail begins at the Lorain County Metro Parks' Black River Reservation, extends downstream to the river's estuary mouth at Lorain, then proceeds west along the Lake Erie shore to Vermilion, and finally traverses up the Vermilion River estuary to Mill Hollow. Estuaries are the lower, drowned mouths of rivers flowing into Lake Erie that were drowned when the level of Lake Erie slowly rose as the Niagara River outlet rebounded when the weight of glacial ice was removed some 10,000 years ago. We can thank these estuaries for the fine harbors we have along the Ohio shore, which also give rewarding opportunities to recreational boaters, particularly exploration by canoe and kayak.

Later this year, the Lorain County Metro Parks plans to construct a canoe launching facility at the confluence of French Creek and the Black River. The launch area will be located on the north side of the Steel Mill Trail bridge over French Creek. In addition to paddling experiences, there are also hiking and bicycling opportunities within the Metro Park along the Black River. In conjunction with the widening of Colorado Avenue within the Village, also planned for later this year, a new bike

trail will connect the north end of the Steel Mill Trail with the French Creek Nature Center. As one experiences the growing popularity of paddlesports along the new water trail, a number of historical and cultural sites can also be enjoyed, including Day's Dam, the Jabez Burrell Homestead, Black River Historical Society's Moore House Museum, Lorain Lighthouse, Lakeview Park Café and Rose Garden, and the Inland Seas Museum in Vermilion. Come enjoy our waterway!



Canoeing on the Lorain-Vermilion Water Trail (courtesy of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Watercraft 2008).

History of Sheffield's Dairy Industry

The family name Mackert is synonymous with the dairy industry in Sheffield Village. From 1931 to 1954 the Mackert family owned and operated a dairy on Abbe Road that serviced much of northern Lorain and northwestern Cuyahoga Counties. From a humble single-truck beginning, the dairy grew over the years to a fleet of over twenty delivery trucks. In January, the Editor had a pleasant conversation with Gladys Mackert about the dairy and Mackert family. Gladys, who now lives on Old Colorado Road, was married to the late Lester Mackert who was the son the dairy's founder, Ed Mackert. For ten years she worked on the family farm while Lester worked in the dairy. The Editor thanks Gladys for sharing her recollections and Mackert family research.

The Mackert Family Immigrates to Sheffield

Joseph Ignatius [Ignatz] Mackert (1820-1883) was the patriarch of the Sheffield branch of the family, having emigrated from Ettlingen, Baden, a region along the Rhine River in southwestern Germany, in the early 1840s. Ettlingen had its origin as a Roman settlement and was chartered as a town in 1227. Before Ignatz was born, waterpower was used at Ettlingen for milling and was the basis for industrial development in the late 1700s. An 18th century castle and town hall still exist in the town that now has a population of over 35,000 residents.

Ignatz and his wife (Mary Walburga Sonz) first planned to settle on the west bank of the Cuyahoga River—near today's West Side Market—where Ignatz had been promised 40 acres of land if he cleared 80 acres of dense forest. Mary, wanting to live near her family, convinced Ignatz to continue on west to Sheffield where her brother had a farm. Mary's father, a Baden nobleman, had disowned her for marrying Ignatz, a poor but well-educated young man who had once studied for the Priesthood. To escape his



John and Margaret Mackert Family (circa 1900); children (left to right) Albert, Edward, Leona, and Genevieve (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).

wrath, the couple had come to America. Mary, being accustomed to the easy life enjoyed by a lady of wealth, found the hardships of pioneer life unbearable. The couple lost one baby after another, which Mary believed was caused by the curse her father had put on her, only 7 of 12 survived. She became mentally ill and died in December 1865. Their first child, Frank (1843-1913), who was only one

and a half years old when they came to America, distinguished himself by serving in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) during the Civil War.

In the spring following Mary's death, Ignatz married Mary Francis Schwartz (1845-1909) of nearby Avon and she bore him three sons and a daughter who survived infancy. Francis, as she was known, was a large, hard-working woman who was kind to all the children of Ignatz's first wife. The family lived on Bennet Road (an early name for Abbe Road). Ignatz had a business besides being a farmer—traveling throughout northern Lorain County by horse and buggy, he sold First Communion paraphernalia, rosaries, and religious books. He was a deeply religious man, often stopping his work to recite his *office*. Ignatz had a hard life and died at the age of 63 on December 13, 1883. He is buried in St. Teresa Cemetery in the eighth row south of the northern edge of the cemetery (approximately 22 graves sites west of St. Teresa Church) with "Ignatz Mackert" on a white marble gravestone that is badly weathered. Francis died on October 19, 1909 and is buried in the first row of the cemetery, in line with Ignatz's grave,



Wedding photograph of Peter and Margaret Schueller (circa 1876), parents of Bertha (Schueller) Mackert (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).



Wedding photograph of Edward and Bertha (Schueller) Mackert, May 26, 1914 (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).

with "Mary F. Mackert" on a gray granite marker. Regarding Ignatz's first wife, church records indicate that a "Walburga Mackert" is also buried in the old section of St. Teresa Cemetery, but no legible grave marker has been located for her.

After his father's passing, John T. Mackert (1867-1935), the eldest son of Ignatz and Francis, operated the farm with his wife Margaret (née Maier or Mayer, 1869-1917). They had five children Edward, Albert, Genevieve, Leona, and Lucille. John's younger brother Andrew's daughter, Alice (Mrs. Charles DeChant, born 1927) was the subject of an earlier article in *The Village Pioneer* on her North Ridge home (December 2007, page 11).

In turn, John's eldest son, Edward ("Ed") A. Mackert (1893-1959), took over the family farm with his wife Bertha (née Schueller, 1887-1993), which included her family's adjoining farm and home just south of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad crossing on Abbe Road, totaling about 70 acres. The home of Bertha's parents, Peter (1848-1927) and Margaret (née Kelling) Schueller (1855-1936), still stands on the west side of Abbe Road. Ed Mackert farmed and worked at the National Tube Company's steel mill in South Lorain. In 1928 he opened a small dairy on the farm, selling 16 quarts of milk the first day he opened for business. In 1931 he was seriously burned in an open-hearth fire at the mill—unable to return to work at the steel plant, Ed decided to go into the dairy business fulltime, as well as keeping up the farm.

Edward Mackert Starts a Dairy Business

Starting with a small herd, Ed hand milked the cows and daily delivered non-pasteurized milk to the cottages in Sheffield Lake in the early 1930s. Ed and Bertha had three children, Luella (1914-1992), Harold (1920-1979), and Lester J. (1923-2008), who all worked at the dairy. Luella, who served as secretary for the dairy, married Paul Izold (1914-1983), Harold married Wanda Belevich (1922-1938), and Lester married a neighborhood girl, Gladys Wisnieski (born 1925). While still a student at Brookside High School, Lester had a milk delivery route in one of the dairy's trucks. When he first started to drive, his father had to mount blocks on the pedals so Lester could reach them. During his junior year (1940),



Mackert's Dairy in the late 1940s, before the carton plant was built (courtesy of Gladys Wisnieski).



Ed Mackert working on the dairy books in August 1951 (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).



Glass bottle from Mackert's Dairy (early 1940s). Slogan on backside with grazing cows reads, "Drink Milk for Health."



Mackert's Dairy (circa 1952); from left—cow barn, dairy plant with pasteurizers, bottling (carton) plant, Lucille & Paul Izold residence, and Ed & Bertha Mackert residence (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).



Mackert's Dairy truck (January 1950) that was driven by Kenneth Wisnieski. Kenneth was the brother of Gladys Mackert and husband of Gladys (Jungbluth) Wisnieski (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).

Brookside's yearbook *The Leader*, printed the following item on the joke page:

Judge: "Why didn't you hold your hand out when you slowed down on that busy street?"

Lester: (Who had been driving the milk truck) "Gee, if that driver behind me didn't see my truck, how could he have seen my hand?"

As time went on, Ed's business grew and he had to add more drivers and trucks to the dairy's staff. Soon his herd of about twenty Holstein cows couldn't supply the demand and he contracted with dairy farmers from Avon, North Ridgeville, and Sheffield to bring their raw milk to his plant for processing. By the mid-1940s the operation of the plant required all of his attention and he abandoned the farm's dairy herd, relying exclusively on area farmers to supply raw milk. In 1937 Mackert's Dairy began to pasteurize the raw milk. This gave milk a longer storage life before souring and killed many pathogens, including the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which is responsible for the pulmonary disease of the same name (formerly known as 'consumption').

Pasteurization is the process of partial sterilization of milk by heat. To be completely sterilized, milk must be heated to the boiling point (212°F) several times with intervals between to allow any surviving spores to develop and be destroyed by the next heating. The peculiar "cooked taste" of boiled milk that is unpleasant to many people can be avoided if the milk is only heated to 145°F for 30 minutes—this temperature is sufficient to kill those bacteria responsible

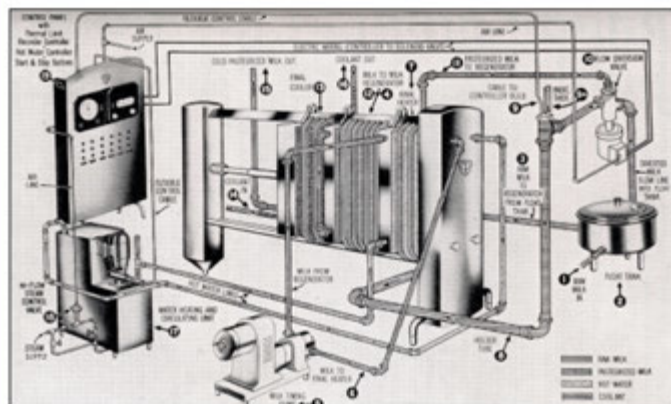
for the souring of milk as well as many disease germs. The milk is then rapidly cooled to 50°F or below and bottled. This process was devised by Louis Pasteur in 1864 to keep wine and beer from spoiling, but was not applied to milk until 1886. Later, the "flash method" was developed where milk is quickly heated to 160°F or slightly higher, held there for not less than 15 seconds, then cooled rapidly, and bottled. The diagram below illustrates the type of high-temperature, short-time milk pasteurizers in use in the early 1950s.

In addition to installing pasteurization equipment, Ed Mackert implemented many other innovations to modernize his dairy business. He was way ahead of his time by experimenting with propane as a fuel for his delivery trucks. The trucks were equipped with special heaters to keep the fuel from freezing. By the early 1950s he had over 20 retail delivery trucks and driver/salesmen operating in regular routes in Sheffield, Avon, Bay Village, Elyria, and Lorain, as well as four wholesale trucks that made deliveries to schools and retail stores, such as Johnson's Grocery on Detroit Road. From the early 1930s through the late 1940s Mackert's Dairy used distinctive clear glass bottles, some with red lettering, images of grazing cows, and the slogan, *Drink Milk for Health*. In 1949 Ed invested in a new "bottling" system, one of the first dairies in the area to use cartons rather than glass. The new system started with rolls of paperboard to which wax was applied then cut to the appropriate size and formed into a carton. A new building was constructed adjacent to the pasteurization plant to accommodate fabrication of the cartons.

Dairymens Milk Company

Ed Mackert was the kind of individual who liked to do everything himself, even the bookwork. Some say he worked himself to death by only getting three hours of sleep many nights. Above all, he was a kind and generous man. During the Great Depression when times were hard, he never stopped delivering milk to families with children when the father was out of work and could not pay. Eventually the hard work took its toll and he became ill. He decided to sell the dairy. Ed Mackert died in 1959 at age 66.

In 1954 the Dairymens Milk Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, founded in 1921, purchased Mackert's Dairy as a substation. Dairymens retained all of Mackert's 21 driver/salesmen and trucks, only repainting the name on the sides of the trucks. Ed Mackert even stayed on as manager of the substation for the first year. Paul Smith of Sumner Street in Sheffield Village's Day Allotment started working as a driver/salesman at the time of the transfer and continued to work for Dairymens for many years, spending a total of 35 years in the dairy industry before retiring. Paul recalls that Dairymens operated the Sheffield substation for 15 years, constructing a new brick building for processing raw milk just north of the old cow barn in the mid-1950s. With increased residential and commercial development on former dairy farmland, Dairymens' supply of raw milk declined and the company decided to close the Sheffield substation in 1969 and the dairy buildings were abandoned. Paul was serving as manager of the substation when it was closed and was transferred to the main plant in Cleveland.



Flow chart illustrating the passage of milk through a pasteurizer from the early 1950s (courtesy of Creamery Package Mfg. Co.).



Paul Smith delivering milk in Sheffield Lake from a Dairymens Milk Company truck in January 1976 (courtesy of Paul Smith).



Former Mackert's Dairy truck drivers (circa 1954) shortly after the dairy was purchased by Dairymens Milk Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Paul Smith, third from the right on the front row, drove 35 years for the dairies. Paul Izold, Luella (Mackert) Izold's husband, is the first standing driver on the right and Al Kelling, father-in-law of David Mackert, is the second driver from the left in the front row (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).



Former Mackert's Dairy fleet of Divco delivery trucks (circa 1954) shortly after the dairy was purchased by Dairymens Milk Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Ed Mackert is standing in front next to the first truck, Lester is the next man to the left, and Paul Smith is the seventh driver from the right (courtesy of Paul Smith).

Gladys Mackert Recalls

Gladys married her high school sweetheart, Lester Mackert, in 1944 and they raised six children on the farm: David (born 1946), James (born 1948), Jennifer (born 1950), Mary (born 1953), Ellen (born 1955), and Jean (born 1962). They lived in the Schueller house, which was across Abbe Road from the dairy, but still part of the farm. Lester was a driver before World War II; he was drafted into the Army during the war and worked in the dairy plant after the war. I asked Gladys what it was like to live and work at Mackert's Dairy farm. Her answer, "We worked seven days a week for ten years with no days off." Then she quickly added, "It was a wonderful place to raise a family, the children worked hard in the fields and didn't have time to get into much trouble. It was a good life on the farm, I am so glad the children had the experience of living on a farm." When I asked if the cows had names, she didn't



Gladys Mackert holding a 70-year-old glass bottle from Mackert's Dairy (January 2009).

recall, said Ed Mackert's workhorses were "Pat and Pal." Lester is gone, but Gladys is comforted by 53 children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, 31 of whom gathered at her home this past Christmas.



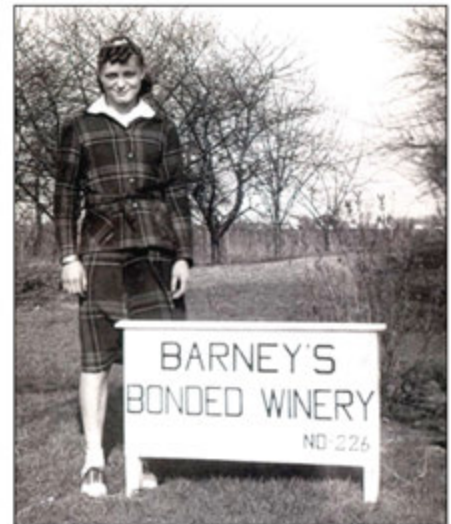
Wedding photograph of Lester and Gladys (Wisnieski) Mackert, September 9, 1944 (courtesy of Gladys Mackert).



Mathias Schueller's Farmhouse on Abbe Road, built in the 1860s and later the home of his son's family, Peter and Margaret Schueller; across from Mackert's Dairy, where Lester and Gladys Mackert made their home for 21 years from 1948 through 1969 (photograph 2005).

Barney Jungbluth's Dairy

As a point of interest, Mackert's Dairy was not the only early dairy business in the Village. Barney Jungbluth operated a winery and dairy at his farm near the corner of Abbe and French Creek Roads, delivering milk and wine to Sheffield and the surrounding communities. Gladys (Jungbluth) Wisnieski, Barney's daughter, remembers making deliveries in South Lorain in the late 1930s and early 1940s from the dairy's pick-up truck when she was a teenager. Every night Gladys would dip milk from 10 gallon cans to fill glass bottles for the next mornings delivery. Once pasteurization of milk became a requirement, Barney contracted with East Side Dairy on Colorado Avenue in Lorain to process his raw milk. On January 15, 1955, Barney



Gladys Jungbluth standing alongside a sign advertising her father's bonded winery in 1942 (courtesy of Gladys Wisnieski).

Jungbluth held an auction sale liquidating his dairy holding, "Due to my son [Allen A. Jungbluth] going in the service..." including 22 head of cattle (milking), 600 bales of alfalfa, a Farmall H tractor, various implements, and dairy machinery. J. O. Fenstermaker of Homerville served as auctioneer.



Barney Jungbluth (left) and hired hand "Johnny" Carson standing beside Barney's new Ford pick-up truck used to deliver milk and wine (August 1948) (courtesy of Gladys Wisnieski).

Sheffield's Spring Wildflowers

After all of the snow we have had this winter it will certainly be a treat to see spring wildflowers blooming. The next several pages illustrate some of the colorful wildflowers photographed throughout the Village last spring. Each wildflower has its own story and we hope the following descriptions and images will help you identify them and appreciate the variety we are fortunate to have here in Sheffield. If you would like to take a wildflower walk, see the Metro Parks' schedule at the end of this article.

Bluets (*Houstonia caerulea*)

—MADDER FAMILY (Rubiaceae)

This perennial plant, also known as a Quaker Lady, has a solitary pale blue flower, 0.5 inch wide, with 4 petals and a golden-yellow "eye" in the center. These delicate flowers often grow in large colonies, where pollination is carried out by bees and small butterflies. The flower forms at the top of an erect stem that rises from 3 to 8 inches above the ground. Leaves on the stem are opposite and tiny; basal leaves form a rosette that is crowded near the ground. This native plant is found in meadows on the Lake Plain and woodlot borders, where soil is poor. The genus is named for an English botanist, William Houston (1695-1733).



Common Blue Violet (*Viola sororia*)

—VIOLET FAMILY (Violaceae)

This early blooming wildflower is common in wooded floodplains, moist open woods and fields, and lawns. The blue- to deep purple- to white flower is about 1 inch wide, with 5 petals. Leaves are heart-shaped. Flowers and leaves are on separate stems. Blue violets grow in large clusters formed by spreading horizontal rhizomes (underground stems) in all directions, which grow close to the surface of the ground. In summer this plant produces other flowers near the ground that fail to open (cleistogamous), but self-pollinate within a calyx and produce vast quantities of seeds. Violet leaves are high in vitamins A and C and can be used on salads.



Common Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

—DOGBANE FAMILY (Apocynaceae)

Also known as Myrtle, this creeping ground cover is an alien plant introduced from Europe that has become naturalized throughout much of eastern Ohio. It has a solitary purplish-blue flower, 1 inch wide, with 5 petals and a whitish star in the center, borne in the axils of leaves (angle formed by the upper side of a leaf and the stem from which it grows). The glossy, dark green leaves are evergreen and opposite on trailing stems. It is widely cultivated as a border plant or ground cover in Sheffield and has escaped to occasionally form patches in woods and abandoned sites. The Latin base for the name of the genus means "to bind."





Daffodil
(Narcissus pseudonarcissus)
 —LILY FAMILY (Liliaceae)

This alien plant, native and widespread in Europe, has been introduced in Sheffield flower gardens and has spread to areas in the vicinity of cultivation. Daffodils grow from a deep bulb that is 2 inches or more in diameter. The flowering stem, which is smooth, semi-succulent, and easily broken, holds only one flower. Sweetly scented flowers, about 2 inches wide, often occur in clusters of up to 20. The slightly nodding flowers are in the form of a trumpet with a frill of white petals and a golden-yellow center. The leaves are mid-green, thin, and erect. Discovering a woodland patch of escaped daffodils in early spring is a rewarding experience.



Dandelion
(Taraxacum officinales)
 —SUNFLOWER FAMILY (Asteraceae)

This familiar lawn and open field plant has the longest blooming period of any of the other wildflowers in Sheffield—from March through December. The yellow flower head is 1 to 2 inches wide and is composed of 150 to 200 tiny flowers. The leaves have jagged lobes, resembling sharp teeth. The hollow stem produces a milky sap and grows to a height of 2 to 18 inches. Being hollow, the stems bend without breaking under windy conditions. The same principle is used in the construction of flagpoles. Dandelions survive the winter by storing energy in long, thick taproots. The same deep taproot enables the plant to survive droughts. Dandelions produce a fluffy ball of seeds, each seed with parachute-like hairs that help the wind to disperse the seeds.



False Rue-Anemone
(Isopyrum biternatum)
 —BUTTERCUP FAMILY (Ranunculaceae)

This perennial herb has solitary, white flowers 0.5 to 0.8 inch wide with 5 petals. Large patches of this delicate plant, with 2 to 3 flowers on slender stalks, can be found in early spring in the Black River valley at moist woodlots near Day's Dam. The stalks project above a whorl of small leaflets, grouped in 3s and deeply lobed. The plant's height is low, generally 4 to 10 inches. This leafy plant grows from thick, fibrous roots; most of the plant's energy is put into the root system, which is an adaptation that increases the chance of surviving harsh winters. It is similar in appearance to Rue-Anemone (*Anemone thalictroides*), which has up to 10 petals.

Henbit

(*Lamium amplexicaule*)

—MINT FAMILY (Lamiaceae)

This sprawling alien plant was introduced from Eurasia, but is now naturalized throughout much of Ohio. The reddish-purple flower, 0.5 to 0.8 inch long, has a corolla (whorl of petals) fused to form a long tube with a hooded upper lip and a flaring lower lip. The upper leaves are round with scalloped margins and clasp a square stem. Stems of this annual plant grow upward from a creeping position, with the peculiar flower at the top of the stem. It grows in sunny fields, roadsides, and even through cracks in sidewalks. Henbit is poisonous to livestock, especially sheep, causing the animal to stagger.



Jack-in-the-pulpit

(*Arisaema triphyllum*)

—ARUM FAMILY (Araceae)

This distinctive, native plant is common in the moist oak woodlots of the Lake Plain. A solitary green flower, often striped, 2 to 3 inches tall, is nestled in a funnel-shaped spathe, or "pulpit." The spathe forms a hood arching over a club-shaped, flowering spike (spadix), the "Jack." The plant is dioecious, indicating that male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. The spadix of a female plant is sometimes referred to as the "Jill." Plants range from 1 to 3 feet tall. The spadix releases a fowl-smelling odor that attracts flies as its major pollinators. Mature fruit consists of a cluster of scarlet berries. The roots contain hot-tasting calcium oxalate crystals.



Kidney-leaved Buttercup

(*Ranunculus abortivus*)

— BUTTERCUP FAMILY (Ranunculaceae)

Also known as small-flowered crowfoot, this native plant is commonly regarded as a weed. The yellow flower is only 0.3 inch wide, with 5 to 7 petals. Although this plant does not look much like a buttercup, a closer look reveals that the flower has numerous stamens, a characteristic of the Buttercup Family. The stem leaves are deeply divided and are arranged alternately on branching stems. The basal leaves are kidney-shaped, hence the common name. This rather inconspicuous plant can grow to a height of 2 feet and prefers a shady, moist, wooded habitat. The species name refers, in Latin, to the reduced size of the petals.





Large White Trillium
(Trillium grandiflorum)

—LILY FAMILY (Liliaceae)

This elegant native plant is one of the showiest in the woods of the Black River valley and has been chosen by the Ohio General Assembly as the state wildflower. Its 3 white petals stand out against 3 dark green sepals and 3 large leaves. At the center of the 1- to 3-inch flower, 6 golden-yellow stamens are a prominent feature. The genus name is derived from Latin for three, an appropriate designation because the main parts of the plant are in threes. A spectacular display of flowers from this perennial plant is produced in well-lighted openings on the forest floor before leaves appear on the trees. Typical plants range from 6 to 20 inches in height.



Mayapple
(Podophyllum peltatum)

—BARBERRY FAMILY (Berberidaceae)

Mayapples grow in colonies in moist woodlots and openings in the valleys of the Black River and French Creek. These perennial plants are easily recognized by their distinctive umbrella-shaped leaves that are up to 1 foot across. The leaves often obscure a solitary white flower, 1.5 to 2 inches wide with 6 to 9 petals and yellow stamens that grow in a fork below 2 large deeply-cleft leaves. The common name comes from the apple-blossom-like flower. Single-leafed plants are young and do not flower. The fruit is a large, fleshy, lemon-like berry. This native plant typically ranges from 12 to 18 inches high. All parts of the plant are poisonous.



Ohio Buckeye
(Aesculus glabra)

—HORSE-CHESTNUT FAMILY
(Hippocastanaceae)

This medium-sized, deciduous tree was designated the state tree of Ohio by the General Assembly in 1953. Indians named the glossy, brown, nut-like seeds of this tree "hetuck," meaning the eye of a buck, which they certainly resemble. Poisonous to man they are readily consumed by squirrels with no harm. Native Americans pounded the nuts and laced small pools with the powder—the toxin would stun fish, which could be easily gathered as they rose to the surface. The long, upright, showy clusters of pale yellow flowers appear in late spring. Each flower is 0.7 to 1 inch long, narrowly bell-shaped, and has 4 petals.

Pin Cherry
(Prunus pensylvanica)
—ROSE FAMILY (Rosaceae)

This small tree has creamy white flowers in early spring. The showy blossoms, 0.5 inch wide, have 5 petals with yellow stamens in the center. Each flower is on a long stalk in clusters of 3 to 7. The deciduous leaves are 2 to 4 inches long, lance-shaped to elliptic, with finely toothed margins. The leaves are rather fragile and easily torn. In late summer, yellow-green fruit appears that turns bright red in early autumn, giving it another common name—fire cherry. These small, round cherries are about 0.25 inch wide, each on a long stalk. This native cherry prefers moist woodlands, clearings, and old fence rows. It establishes quickly and stabilizes eroding soils.



Purple Dead-nettle
(Lamium purpurcum)
—MINT FAMILY (Lamiaceae)

This annual plant is an alien from Eurasia, but has been naturalized throughout Ohio. The small purple flowers, about 0.5 inch long, consist of petals fused into a whorled corolla that is tube-shaped with a flaring lower lip. Occasionally a white-flowered form of this plant is found in open fields and lawns. The upper leaves are often purplish with short stems, while the basal leaves are long-stemmed. The arrangement of the leaves is opposite. As with most plants in the Mint Family, the main stem is square in cross-section. Generally considered as a weed, it grows to heights of 6 to 12 inches.



Squirrel Corn
(Dicentra canadensis)
—POPPY FAMILY (Papaveraceae)

This native plant has a delicate, heart-shaped, white flower, 0.5 to 0.8 inch long with rounded short spurs, hanging from a slightly arched stem. Flowers are similar in appearance to a close relative, Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), which has a more pantaloan-shape, but often grows nearby. The leaves are finely dissected giving them a fern-like appearance. The flower stem is leafless and rises above the leaves to a height of 6 to 12 inches from the ground. This plant grows in moist woods at base of the Black River's shale banks. Yellow tuber roots that resemble corn kernels and squirrels digging for them give rise to the common name.





Storksbill or Alfilaria
(*Erodium cicutarium*)

—GERANIUM FAMILY (Geraniaceae)

This member of the Geranium Family has an umbrella-like cluster of rose-purple flowers on long stalks that rise from hubs. Each flower is about 0.5 inch wide and has 5 petals. The upper leaves are fern-like and the basal leaves overwinter as a rosette. The fruit is a 5-compartmented, beaked capsule, the parts of which separate from each other and twist when dry. The long, bill-like fruit capsule gives this plant its common name. This alien geranium was introduced from the Mediterranean region. Sandy, disturbed areas are preferred by this plant. It is a valuable forage plant for small mammals and birds.



Swamp Buttercup
(*Ranunculus hispidus*)

—BUTTERCUP FAMILY (Ranunculaceae)

Three varieties of this hispid buttercup are found in Ohio. The variety found in our area is the Swamp buttercup, with the scientific name *Ranunculus hispidus* var. *caricetorium*. As the common name implies it grows in moist woods and thickets on the Lake Plain and on stream banks and floodplains. The yellow flower is about 1 inch wide with 5 petals and numerous yellow stamens in the center. The deeply divided leaves are compound with 3 leaflets. The stems are erect and hairy. The species name, *hispidus*, comes from Latin meaning rough or covered with bristles, which describes the hairy stems. The plant stands 1 to 2 feet tall.



Virginia Bluebell
(*Mertensia virginica*)

—BORAGE FAMILY (Boraginaceae)

This native, perennial plant has a short blooming period in April and May, making it one of the many plants known as spring ephemerals. Large patches of these bluebells grow in the moist Black River floodplain just south of the Garfield Bridge. The blue flowers are about 1 inch long, with drooping, bell-shaped flowers hanging in clusters from the top of stem up to 2 feet high. Pink buds open into the light blue flowers. Smooth, pale green, oval-shaped leaves are arranged alternately on the round stem. Although native to North America, the genus of this wildflower is named for an early German botanist, Franz Karl Mertens (1764-1831).

Yellow Rocket or Wintercress
(Barbarea vulgaris)

—MUSTARD FAMILY (Brassicaceae)

This biennial plant is one of the first to bloom in the early spring. One year it may cover a slope on North Ridge and the next year it can be absent. A showy cluster of small yellow flowers, each with 4 petals and about 0.3 inch across, top a stem that is 0.7 to 2.5 feet tall. The stems have clasping leaves and those at the base have up to 8 separated lobes called "ears." Also known as Yellow Rocket Mustard, the young leaves can be used in salads, either cooked or as greens. This alien plant was introduced from Europe. Look for it in gardens, cultivated fields, roadsides, and recently disturbed areas.



Yellow Fawn-lily or Trout-lily
(Erythronium americanum)

—LILY FAMILY (Liliaceae)

The common name of this native perennial plant refers to the 2 mottled leaves, which resemble the color pattern of a fawn or brook trout. This early spring plant has a solitary yellow, nodding flower, 0.7 to 1.5 inches long, with 3 petals and 3 similarly-looking sepals, giving the appearance of 6 petals. The oval leaves and the narrow flower stalk grow from bulbs 6 to 12 inches deep; the height of the plant ranges from 4 to 10 inches. This moist woodland plant has a long growth cycle. During the first 2 to 3 years it grows as a small single leaf; from years 4 to 6 it has a larger single leaf; finally after 6 to 7 years it sends up the large double leaves and a flower.



LORAIN COUNTY METRO PARKS WILDFLOWER HIKES

If you would like to learning more about our wildflowers and would enjoy experiencing them in the field, the Lorain County Metro Parks is offering a series of guided spring wildflower walks here in the Village and at other reservations throughout Lorain County. Call the Metro Parks office at 1-800-526-7275 for directions to the various reservations and to confirm times.

March 28—Saturday, 10:00 am Avon Lake Kopf Family Reservation
– Guide: Grant
April 4—Saturday, 2:00 pm Black River Reservation, Day's Dam
– Guide: Leslie
April 18—Saturday, 10:00 am Lakeview Park – Guide: Traci
April 23—Thursday, 6:00 pm French Creek Nature Center
– Guide: Jannah
April 25—Saturday, 10:00 am Lakeview Park – Guide: Traci
April 25—Saturday, 10:00 am Schoepfle Garden – Guide: Matt
April 26—Sunday, 2:00 pm Vermilion River Reservation
– Guide: Lindsay
April 28—Tuesday, 4:00 pm Sandy Ridge Res. – Guide: Josh
May 2—Saturday, 2:00 pm Schoepfle Garden – Guide: Matt
May 3—Sunday, 2:00 pm Columbia Reservation – Guide: Linda
May 9—Saturday, 9:00 am Wellington Reservation – Guide: Becky

May 9—Saturday, 2:00 pm French Creek Reservation
– Guide: Leslie
May 10—Sunday, 2:00 pm Vermilion River Reservation
– Guide: Lindsay/Michae
May 13—Wednesday, 6:30 pm Vermilion River Reservation
– Guide: Lindsay
May 16—Saturday, 10:00 am Vermilion River Reservation
– Guide: Lindsay
May 17—Sunday, 9:00 am Carlisle Visitor Center – Guide: Mary
May 23—Saturday, 10:00 am Lakeview Park – Guide: Traci
May 30—Saturday, 9:00 am Avon Lake Kopf Family Reservation
– Guide: Grant
May 30—Saturday, 1:00 pm Indian Hollow Res. – Guide: Aimee
May 31—Sunday, 2:00 pm Black River Reservation Day's Dam
– Guide: Jannah

Society Organization

The Sheffield Village Historical Society is a charitable nonprofit 501(c)(3) 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. Contact Eddie Herdendorf, President (440-934-1514 herdendorf@aol.com) or Ron Forster, Vice President (440-949-7638 rforstersv@yahoo.com) for more information.

Society newsletters can be found on the Village of Sheffield, Ohio official website: www.sheffieldvillage.com (click on Sheffield Village Historical Society, then *The Village Pioneer* Newsletters, then download).

Page Layout is by Ricki C. Herdendorf, EcoSphere Associates, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

The collections of the Sheffield Village Historical Society are housed in the Sheffield History Center at 4944 Detroit Road. The Center is open to members and guests by appointment—please call (440-934-1514). The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is April 9, 2009, 7:00 pm at the History Center. All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Society members are encouraged to submit items for future issues. Please send your stories or ideas to the Editor.

Charles E. Herdendorf, Ph.D.
 Newsletter Editor
 Sheffield Village Historical Society
 Garfield Farms, 4921 Detroit Road
 Sheffield Village, Ohio 44054

Ask Your Friends to Join the Historical Society

Save Those Campbell's Labels

The Historical Society's Sheffield History Center is now registered as a charitable educational facility with the *Campbell's Labels for Education Program* and the Society is asking you to clip and save labels from Campbell's® products. The Society has been presenting educational programs to many local organizations, but one thing we need is a large projection screen on which to project PowerPoint presentations. Each label typically has a value of 1 to 5 points, and we will need to collect 5,400 points to be awarded the screen.



Bobbie Sheets and Ricki Herdendorf have agreed to coordinate the collection and redemption of the labels. All you need to do is clip and save the UPCs or beverage caps from *Campbell's Labels for Education* products and either send them to the Historical Society or give Bobbie a call (277-6825) and she will send Leo around to pick them up. Eligible products include Campbell's soups, V8 juices, Prego sauces, Franco-American gravies, Pepperidge Farms products, and SpaghettiOs pasta. Just look for the "Clip & Redeem" coupon on the label.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SHEFFIELD VILLAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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- Family (\$15.00/year)—2 Adults & children under 18 years old
- Business/Corporate & Organization (\$25.00/year)

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Special Interests in Sheffield History? _____