



## ***BICENTENNIAL BULLETIN No. 22*** ***—Sheffield Celebrates 200th Birthday***

The Sheffield Bicentennial Commission will issue a *Bicentennial Bulletin* each Monday throughout 2015 that illustrates the rich heritage of our communities. **View them at — [www.sheffieldbicentennial.org](http://www.sheffieldbicentennial.org) or [sheffieldvillage.com](http://sheffieldvillage.com)**

### ***SHEFFIELD TOWNSHIP ENGINE HOUSE NO. 1*** ***(built in 2010—replaced 1931 station)*** ***4600 Broadway, Sheffield Township, Ohio***

The Sheffield Township Fire Department was formed on February 25, 1931. Twelve men volunteered to serve as firemen, with C. J. Reising elected Captain and A. Murrell as Lieutenant. The Township Board of Trustees purchased a Studebaker open cab fire truck with a midship pump and 100-gallon capacity water tank. The Board approved the construction of a building on 3977 Broadway near the East 39<sup>th</sup> Street intersection to house the fire truck and other fire-fighting equipment. Prior to 1931, the Black River Township Volunteer Fire department serviced Sheffield Township.



*Dedication plaque at Engine House No. 1*



In 1936, A. Murrell was appointed Chief of the Fire Department. In the late 1940s, it became apparent that the department's equipment was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the Township. In 1949 the Trustees purchased an International fire truck with a midship pump and a 500-gallon capacity tank. On the death of Chief Murrell in March of that year, Jasper Farr was appointed Chief, followed by Glenn A. Horton in 1955.

By this time, the Township had grown to the point where additional fire-fighting facilities were needed. With the building of O'Neil's Sheffield Shopping Center on North Ridge Road and the population nearing 5,000, a second fire station was established at 5166 Clinton Avenue. The International fire truck was transferred to Station No. 2. This station was later enlarged to serve as the Sheffield Township Hall with administrative offices and a Lorain County Sheriff Sub-station.

For Station No. 1 on Broadway, the Trustees purchased a Pirsch Junior 55-foot aerial ladder truck with a 350-gallon capacity water tank, 300-gallon pump, and 100 feet of hand ladders. A used 800-gallon water pumper was also

purchased with a 500-gallon front mounted pump. A used ambulance was acquired at this time. The first women firefighters were added to the department's staff in 1981. Over the years, Station No. 1 was enlarged to 24 feet wide by 60 feet long. From 2000 to 2007, Frank A. Norcross served as Chief of the Fire Department.

With Joe Bandagski as Chief, Sheffield Township opened its new Station No. 1 at 4600 Broadway on October 31, 2010. The new station is four times larger than the old one and was constructed at a cost of \$750,000. The new station serves as a vision of pride for the community. The Sheffield Township Fire Department currently services 18 square miles and responds to about 1,000 calls every year. The Sandstone sign from the top of the old station is proudly displayed at the new engine house.

*Original 1931 Studebaker fire truck*



*1949 International fire truck*



*Sheffield Township firefighters at Station No. 1 in 1957*

