
CHAPTER 4. HOMESTEADS

—TRANSITION FROM WILDERNESS TO PRODUCTIVE FARMS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION ON A PIONEER HOMESTEAD

The Burrell Farm had its beginning in August 1816 with the arrival of Captain Jabez Burrell, his wife Mary [Robbins] Burrell, and their family of eight children in the northern Ohio wilderness. They settled on Lot 65 in what would later be recognized as Sheffield Township when Lorain County was organized eight years hence. Located on high ground overlooking the confluence of French Creek and the Black River, the farm encompassed about 300 acres. After first dwelling in a log house for several years, by the early 1820s Jabez opened a clay quarry on the bank of Sugar Creek, a small stream that flowed into French Creek on the property, where he fashioned and burned red brick to build a fine Federal-style farmhouse. After constructing a dam, raceway, and sawmill on the river in partnership with Capt. John Day, he used glacial-erratic fieldstone for foundations as he built a granary and two barns from wood planks sawed at the mill. Soon after, a gristmill was built across the raceway from the sawmill that utilized the same waterpower to grind grain into flour.

As this was going on, the family began to clear the land, set up pastures, and tilled the soil on the high ground north of the homestead, in the “Big Bottom” floodplain where French Creek meets the Black River, and along the winding valley of Sugar Creek. A steep promontory was located where all three streams cut into the high ground. Here, where an Archaic Indian village was located some 4,000 years earlier, the Burrells set aside seven acres for orchards (apples, peaches, cherries, and plums) and a vineyard. Realizing the value of woodlots for timber resources and maple syrup, over 70 acres were left forested.

When Jabez died in 1833, the village of Sheffield was beginning to flourish. Oberlin College was just getting started some 12 miles to the southwest and three years later the college would open a branch campus at the Burrell farm known as the Sheffield

Manual Labor Institute. The students and faculty planted 17,000 mulberry trees on the farm in hopes of creating a silkworm industry. Unfortunately, a severe drought the following year ended that dream. When Jabez passed away his eldest son, Robbins Burrell, took over the farm and was appointed professor of agriculture at the institute. He had some previous teaching experience—during the winter of 1823-1824 Robbins taught in the only public school that then existed in Cleveland. Robbins was an anti-slavery man and the homestead was for years a station on the Underground Railroad. Fugitive slaves who had reached Oberlin, were smuggled to him and concealed on the farm until Capt. Aaron Root could carry them in his ships to freedom in British Canada.

Robbins Burrell, who married Eliza Brigham, died in 1877. Their eldest son, Edward Burrell, then took over the operation of the farm with his wife Rosa [Clifton] Burrell of Avon, Ohio. In the latter years of Robbins life, Edward managed the business of the farm, including submitting tax statements. These records have survived in the Burrell Family Papers Collection, archived by the Lorain County Metro Parks, and provide unique insight to the operation of a pioneer farm in Sheffield during the late 1800s.

Edward and Rosa Burrell filed farm production statements annually with the Lorain County Assessor for the period 1870 through 1898 (see page 103). The statements reveal that the Burrell farm was very diversified during this period—including dairy cattle, livestock (mainly sheep for wool), poultry, grain, hay and row crops, orchards, a vineyard, and maple woodlots. The farm still consisted of approximately 300 acres, nearly equally divided between cropland and pasturage.



Edward Burrell at corncribs adjacent to barn on the Burrell Homestead in late 1800s (Lorain County Metro Parks).

The orchards comprised four to seven acres and the vineyard was less than one. The woodlots on the farm declined during this period from around 70 acres to 20, but continued to yield modest amounts of sugar and syrup from maple tree sap. The production for typical years, 1872 and 1892, and a low production year, 1898, are illustrated in the accompanying table. Edward Burrell was the reporter for 1872 and 1892. After Edward's death, Rosa Burrell was the reporter.

To participate in a burgeoning new industry in the county, in 1869 Edward Burrell constructed a cheesehouse factory not far from the family dwelling. The factory was built from planks sawed on the farm. In the 1870s he produced cheese and butter from his dairy herd, which averaged between 30 to 40 cows. His peak cheese production was 4,700 lbs. in 1872, while butter averaged about 800 lbs. per year with a maximum of 1,150 lbs. in 1878.

The Burrell sheep herd was typically 100 to 150 animals that produced 700 to 800 lbs. of wool each year. Disease claimed about six sheep each year and in 1887 two were killed by dogs. Chickens yielded between 100 and 200 dozen eggs per year. In addition, the Burrell family had from five to eight horses to work the fields and provide transportation.

Each year Edward Burrell planted around 7 to 20 acres in wheat and nearly an equal amount in oats and corn. The annual yield of wheat fluctuated to some extent, presumably based on climatic conditions, and ranged from a low of 6 bushels/acre to a high of 30 (mean 15 bushels/acre). Likewise, oats ranged from 6 bushels/acre to 66 (mean 41). Corn was somewhat more stable, ranging from 25 to 78 bushels/acre (mean 50). Annually, about 25 to 46 acres were committed to harvesting hay, with a nearly constant yield of 2 tons/acre.

A comparison can be made of modern yields with those of nearly a century and a half ago. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service has published estimated average yields per acre of principal crops for the soils of Sheffield. The floodplains of the Black River and French Creek

consist of Lobdell silt loam and Chagrin silt loam. These soils are expected to yield from 90 to 120 bushels of corn and 3 to 4.6 tons of hay per acre. The upland areas of the farm consist of Haskin loam and Mahoning silt loam. These soils are now estimated to yield 70 to 110 bushels of corn per acre, 30 to 46 bushels of wheat, and 2.2 to 3.4 tons of hay. Thus, with modern tillage techniques and commercial fertilizers, the yield for corn and wheat has approximately doubled, while hay has increased about 40%.

Fluctuations in Sheffield's climatic conditions appear to have had some impact on the yields at the Burrell farm. As mentioned earlier (page 82) William Alexander's *A Climatological History of Ohio*, published by The Ohio State University, Engineering Experiment Station as Bulletin No. 26 in 1923, contains monthly average precipitation and temperature records for each Ohio County for the same period as the Burrell farm production statements. Inspection of the records shows that 1878 had the most rainfall (53.5 inches) and had the warmest spring (mean of 53°F for April), whereas 1886 was the driest (27.3 inches) and 1874 was the coolest spring (mean of 39.6°F for April). These extremes appear to be reflected in crop production. For example in the favorable year of 1878, wheat production was the



Rosa Burrell in front of the Burrell House in 1898 (Lorain County Metro Parks).



Burrell Homestead flock of sheep in the late 1800s (Lorain County Metro Parks).

BURRELL FARM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR 1872, 1892 & 1898

1872			1892			1898		
ITEM	NO.	VALUE	ITEM	NO.	VALUE	ITEM	NO.	VALUE
Horses	8	\$390	Horses	13	\$590	Horses	6	\$250
Cattle	35	\$739	Cattle	7	\$105	Cattle	13	\$220
Sheep	135	\$405	Sheep	172	\$602	Sheep	83	\$245
Hogs	5	\$26	Hogs	5	\$26.40	Hogs	3	\$15
	YIELD	ACRES		YIELD	ACRES		YIELD	ACRES
Wheat (bushels)	170	10	Wheat (bushels)	79	12	Wheat (bushels)	225	20
Oats (bushels)	459	7	Oats (bushels)	225	14	Oats (bushels)	325	16
Corn (bushels)	1,100	10	Corn (bushels)	1,210	18	Barley (bushels)		
Hay (tons)	110	48	Hay (tons)	58	38	Corn (bushels)	700	16
Clover (tons)	20	7	Clover		16	Hay (tons)	50	35
Potatoes (bushels)	180	1.5	Clover Hay (tons)	38		Clover		2
Butter (lbs.)	771		Clover Seeds (bushels)	12.5		Clover Hay (tons)	4	
Cheese (lbs.)	4,702		Potatoes (bushels)	45	0.5	Potatoes (bushels)	115	1
Maple Products			Butter (lbs.)	180		Butter (lbs.)	300	
Sugar (lbs.)	5		Eggs (dozen)	150		Eggs (dozen)	100	
Syrup (gallons)	10.5		Wool (lbs.)	940		Wool (lbs.)	332	
Grapes & Wine			Orchards		4	Orchards		3
Wine pressed (gallons)	5		Apples (bushels)	110		Cultivated Land		135
Wool (lbs.)	802		Pears (bushels)	2		Pasturage		95
Orchards		6	Cultivated Land		102	Wooded Land		20
Apples (bushels)	1,000		Pasturage		187	Total Farm		300
Peaches (bushels)	75		Wooded Land		13			
Pears (bushels)	3		Total Farm		304			
Pasturage		140						
Uncultivated Land		40						
Total Farm		300						

**Other Items Reported:**

Dogs: 1 (male)
 Domestic Animals Died from Disease—6 hogs, 7 sheep, 1 cow (1877); 6 sheep (1878); 4 sheep (1879); 6 sheep, 1 horse (1880); 6 sheep (1881); 1 hog, 6 sheep, 1 cow (1886); 2 sheep killed by dogs (1887); 2 sheep (1892)
 Cost of Commercial Fertilizers—\$10 (1886); \$20 (1887); \$25 (1888)
 Employees & Wages 1870–1879:
 1 male (55-60¢/day),
 1 female (30¢/day)
 Employees & Wages 1880–1898:
 1 full time. (\$20/month);
 2 part time (average 45¢/day, \$12/month)

highest at 30 bushels/acre, twice the average rate for the period of record. Hay production that year, at 2.5 tons/acre, was also the highest for the nearly 30-year period. Conversely, the oat harvest was only 6 bushels/acre in the coolest spring, 1874, well below the average yield of 41 bushels/acre and corn production was only 25 bushels/acre in 1886, the driest year, about half the average yield.

The apple orchard annually produced on average nearly 100 bushels/acre, but showed considerable variation, ranging from about 20 to 300 bushels. The orchard also produced modest amounts of peaches, pears, cherries, and plums in that order. Grape production was also modest, with a half-acre vineyard yielding up to 600 lbs. of grapes and 5 gallons of pressed wine. Annual maple sugar and syrup production averaged about 5 lbs. and 10 gallons, respectively. Most years, the farm also produced 100 to 200 bushels of potatoes from a 1.5-acre plot. Other minor harvests included sorghum sugar and syrup, clover hay and seeds, barley grain, and some flax for yarn.

Tragically, Edward was killed in an accident at the farm in the fall of 1891 at the age of 56. The Sunday before the accident he had preached the sermon in the little Congregational Church at the edge of the farm, as he had done for the past two years. The day of the accident he had hauled a wagonload of heavy logs from a woodlot to the mill. While attempting to unload the wagon, the logs suddenly started to roll, crushing Edward. He lingered near death for three days, but medical attention was not what it is today and on November 7, 1891 he died.

Rosa, with some assistance from her son Harry, continued to operate the farm for the next seven years as indicated by her signature on the tax statements. In 1894 Harry Burrell married Tempe Garfield, granddaughter of Sheffield pioneer, Milton Garfield. Harry seemed more interested in a career on boats than working on the farm. Thus, after Edward's death the records show a marked decline in production. For example wool production dropped to only 332 lbs. in 1898, whereas in earlier years it was double or triple that amount. Likewise, cheese was no longer reported as a product. However, the farm continued to function and support the family. In the final analysis, it can be concluded that the Burrell farm was well rounded—producing cash crops and other agricultural products for sale, as well as making the homestead nearly self-sufficient. This was the typical model for a pioneer farm where most of the family's needs had to be generated at home.

CHEESE INDUSTRY IN SHEFFIELD

The Jabez and Robbins Burrell House and Cheese Factory is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (No. 76001471). Located on East River Road overlooking the confluence of French Creek with the Black River, the 1820s Federal-style brick farmhouse was the first substantial building constructed in Sheffield. To the rear of house is an elegant, wood-frame building that was formerly used as a cheese factory. This cheese house is significant because very few of the large number of cheese factories erected for this important Ohio industry are still in existence. The Burrell Homestead is now part of the Lorain County Metro Parks system.

Jabez Burrell (1766–1829) was the original proprietor of the homestead, followed by his eldest son, Robbins Burrell (1799–1877). It was not until circa 1869 that Robbins' son, Edward Burrell (1835-1891), constructed the cheese factory and commenced commercial production of cheese. The cheese factory was constructed on a gentle hillside in a manner similar to a “bank barn,” in that entry to the main floor was at ground level and the basement could be accessed directly at the downhill side of the building. The dimensions of the factory are 27 feet long and 18 feet wide, with a steep-pitched gable roof. The exterior consists of wood board & batten siding on the upper level, whereas the basement walls are constructed of irregular sandstone slabs and split granite boulders held together with wide mortar joints. For heat, a brick fireplace was constructed against the south wall of the basement. The upper level is accessed through a large doorway at the top of a six-step approach. The upper level features a giant workbench that spans the entire width of the building. In the first half of the 20th century, the Burrell family converted the old cheese house to a garage by constructing a ramp and hinged doors at the north end to drive automobiles into the building. In recent years, Metro Parks has restored the building to its original condition.

Most years in the 1870s the size of the Burrell dairy herd probably numbered from 30 to 40 milking cows. This would give a daily yield of about 100 gallons (or 800 pounds) of milk. This yield would produce about 75 pounds of cheese per day. However, Burrell family records indicate that sheep and goats were also raised for milk and cheese production. Because milking generally took place in the early morning and in the late afternoon, the Burrells would have had to store the afternoon milking overnight for processing with the morning milking. Storage was typically done in a springhouse, where cold water (~52°F)



Burrell Cheese Factory, constructed circa 1869 by Edward Burrell, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

from a spring was circulated around pails of milk to keep the milk “sweet and fresh”—or as we know today, to retard bacterial action. In the absence of a spring, the milk was stored in a cistern where cold groundwater served the same purpose. Another technique that was likely used was storage in an icehouse. In winter, blocks of ice cut from backwater ponds along the Black River and from French Creek were placed in the icehouse with sawdust packed tightly around them. Handled in this way, the ice could last throughout the summer. In warm weather a block of ice could be removed, washed, and used to keep the milk cool.

In the 1870s the cheese-making process began with pouring milk from the Burrell dairy herd into large vats, then heating the milk to about 95°F (sometimes referred to as blood-heat). This causes the milk to coagulate and precipitate solids, known as curds when liquid rennet was added. Rennet is curdled milk from the stomach of an unweaned calf, containing the curd-forming enzyme, rennin.

The treatment of the curds and the remaining liquid, called whey, was a slow, three-hour process. When the Burrells were satisfied with the curd, the whey was drained off and saved for feeding calves, hogs, and chickens. When the curd was thoroughly drained, it was removed from the vat to a cheese board where it was salted, coloring added (commonly a yellow bean extract), and worked into rough blocks.

The fairly dry curd was then put in a press that compressed it into solid blocks of cheese over a period of several hours. The cheese was then wrapped in cheesecloth, a thin muslin, and was ready for curing. Long wide shelves, typically of black walnut boards, permitted each block to be stored separately with free air circulation at an even temperature for several weeks of curing. The cheese blocks were often rubbed with yellow whey-butter

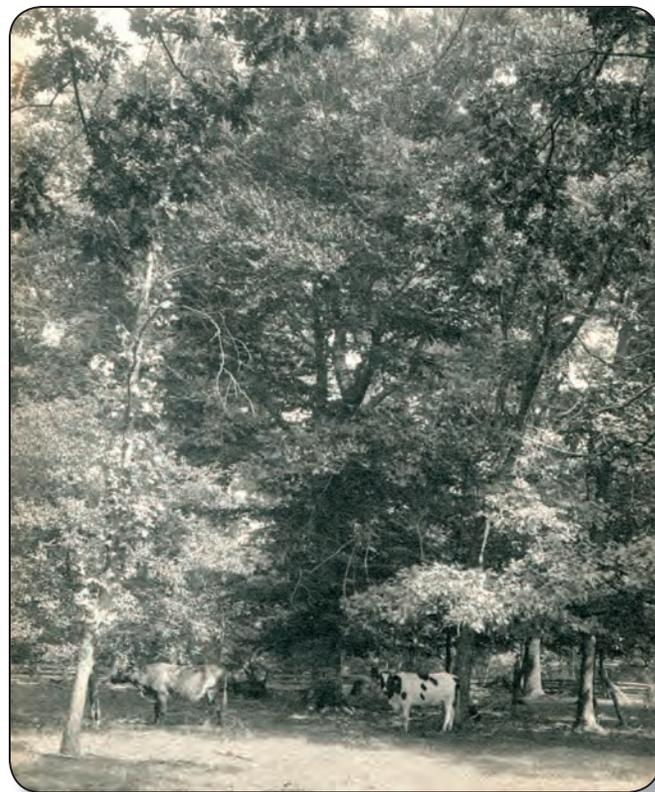
to improve the cure and flavor, and the blocks were turned over daily to prevent mold on the underside. When finally cured, the cheese was ready to be hauled to markets such as Black River and Elyria.

The cheese production in Sheffield was part of a much larger cheese industry in Lorain County centered in the Wellington area. Frank C. Van Cleef, in his January 1960 article in *The Ohio Historical Quarterly* titled, “The Rise and Decline of the Cheese Industry in Lorain County,” reported that in the 1860s cheese sold from 4¢ to 15¢ a pound. During the Civil War, in one week in June 1862 a total of 64,708 pounds of cheese was shipped by railroad from Wellington. At that time cheese factories in the southern part of the county were designed to handle the milk of 2,500 cows.

By 1877 the area had 45 cheese factories producing over 6 million pounds of cheese per year from some 20,000 cows. In the 1880s and 1890s cheese production in Lorain County began a gradual decline with the large factories closing down by 1913. One of the primary reasons for the decline was the population growth in the Cleveland, Akron, Lorain, and Elyria areas. Northern Ohio literally began drinking the milk that for so many years had been manufactured into butter and cheese to be marketed. These population centers could afford to pay more for milk than could be earned from cheese. Cheese and butter manufacturing ceased to be profitable in a district (called a milkshed) where there was a large enough population to consume all of the milk produced in that district, leaving little for cheese production.



Actress Anita Benedetti, poses as First Lady Lucretia Garfield at the basement door of the Burrell Cheese Factory (2008).



A portion of the Burrell Homestead dairy herd in 1898 (Lorain County Metro Parks).

MILTON GARFIELD HOMESTEAD

This is a large, impressive Greek Revival-style house at 4921 Detroit Road that was built in 1839 for Milton Garfield by Ezra and Roswell Jackson of Avon. The interior of the house was the work of Milton's sons, Henry and Halsey Garfield, except for the elegant dining room, which was completed by the Jacksons. The general design of this two-story house is a balanced or symmetrical scheme with one central chimney at the rear and two others, one each on the outer sidewalls. The front entry enframingent has two recessed half-columns on each side of the door. The elegant doorway and fine exterior treatment is only a prelude to the exquisite fireplaces and ornamental detailing of the interior. The great fireplace is one of the few in the Western Reserve in which warming and bake-ovens are found intact. One of the most interesting features of the house is the main stairway—the newel was made by hand from a single piece of native black walnut. It is securely anchored by being mortised and keyed into a floor beam. The handrail is also made of walnut, and the spindles of native wild cherry. The detailed work on the stairway indicates that the builders were skilled craftsmen.



Summer at the Milton Garfield House, Greek Revival-style farmhouse built in 1839.



Autumn at the Milton Garfield House.



Milton and Tempe [Williams] Garfield circa 1860 (Garfield Farms Landmark Foundation).

This house, featured in I. T. Frary's *Early Houses of Ohio* (1936) and referred to as the Garfield-Root House, contains an unusual built-in feature in the dining room. Between two of the seven doorways leading to and from this room is a niche fitted to receive a clock, which has occupied this place of vantage since the house was finished. Below the shelf on which the clock stands are four small drawers, the whole forming a useful as well as decorative original feature of the room. These drawers now hold Indian artifacts discovered when the cellar was excavated in the sandy soil of North Ridge. The foundation stones and the elaborately tooled front and side stoops are of sandstone extracted from Eschtruth Quarry, located less than two miles to the west near the southwest corner of the SR 57 and 254 intersection.

The Milton Garfield farm originally encompassed 200 acres on the north and south sides of North Ridge. It once included the land on which the Sheffield Village Hall, Garfield Cemetery, Mike Bass Ford, I-90 Nissan, Montrose Tri-County Kia, Quaker Steak & Lube, Willoway Nurseries' Sheffield Range, part of the Norfolk Southern Railway, and 10 residences are now located. As a young man Milton Garfield walked from Tyringham, Massachusetts, started clearing the land on North Ridge in 1815, and built a log house. He married Tempe Williams of Avon in 1820 and they had six children, all of which were born in the log house, except their youngest, Julia, who was born in their new home. By the late 1830s Milton had become a prosperous farmer and was commonly known as Colonel Garfield because of his participation in the Ohio Militia. He was then able to build the fine Greek Revival-style home, which still stands near the



Milton Garfield House as it appeared in July 1884 (Garfield family).

center of the original homestead. Milton served as County Commissioner when Lorain County was first organized in 1824 and was also the first Treasurer of Sheffield Township. He is buried in Garfield Cemetery where his white marble monument is located at the northeast corner of the graveyard. His youngest daughter, Julia, married Civil War veteran Edward Root, son of Capt. Aaron Root. Their youngest son, Henry Garfield Root, inherited the house and raised his family there.

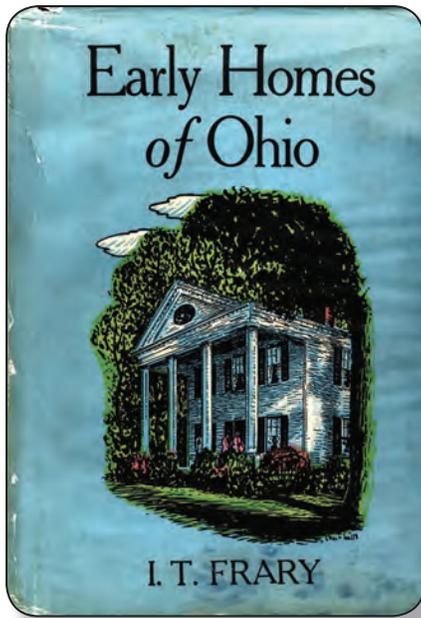
The Milton Garfield House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-22-9), as well as being recognized as a Century Home and a Lorain County Historic Landmark



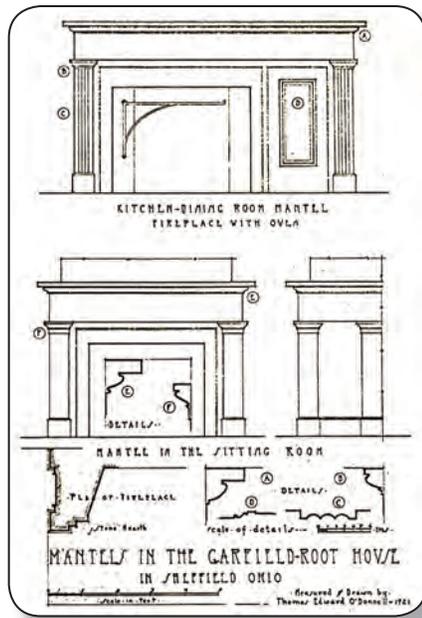
Milton Garfield House as it appeared circa 1910 (Garfield family).



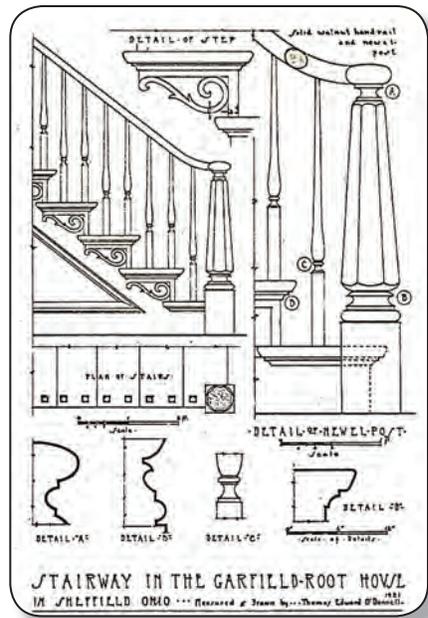
Milton Garfield House as it appeared circa 1930 (Garfield family).



I. T. Frary's 1936 book on the Early Homes of Ohio, which illustrates the Milton Garfield House.



Architectural drawing of the main fireplace and mantel in the Milton Garfield House (O'Donnel 1924).



Architectural drawing of the stairway and newel post in the Milton Garfield House (O'Donnel 1924).



Clock niche in the main sitting room of the Milton Garfield House (depicted by Frary 1936).



Clock niche in 2010. Note Indian artifacts unearthed when foundation was dug in 1839.



Ceiling medallion with cranberry-glass lamp in the east parlor (upper) and ceiling medallion with rosette floral design in the west parlor (lower) of the Milton Garfield House.



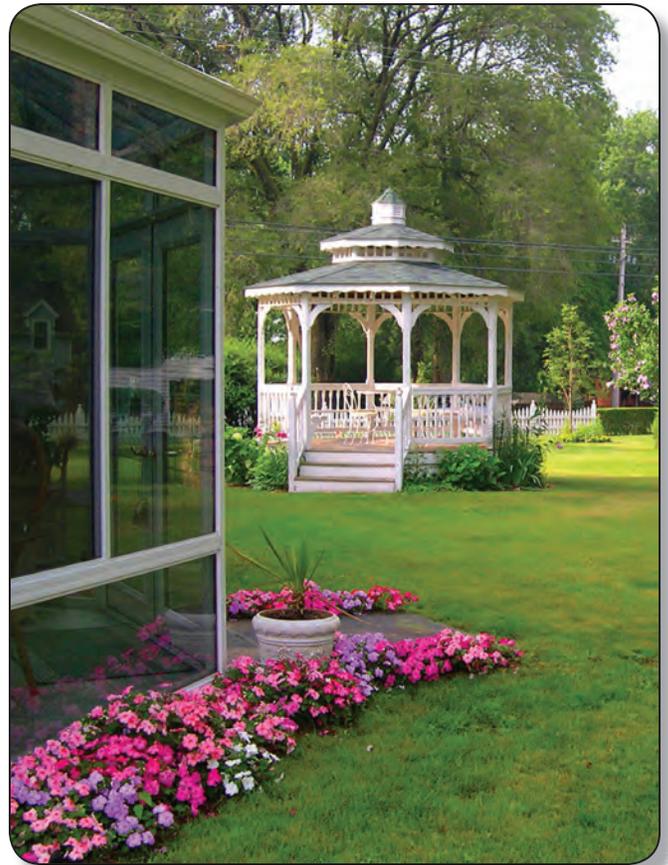
Small bank barn built by Henry Garfield Root to stable carriage horses on the Garfield farm.



1950s bomb shelter built by Raymond Potter under a corncrib foundation on the Garfield farm.



Main barn on the Garfield farm, built in 2005 to replace a barn that burned in a 1917 lightning storm.



Folk Victorian-style gazebo on the west lawn at the Milton Garfield House, built by Amish carpenters in 2005.

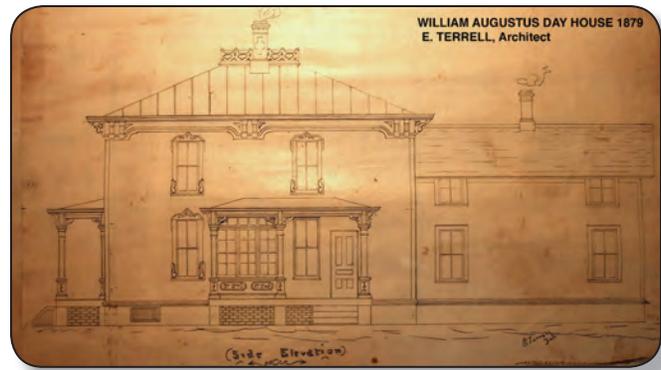


Barn and spring-fed farm ponds at the base of North Ridge on the Milton Garfield farm.

WILLIAM AUGUSTUS DAY HOUSE

In 2011 the Lorain County Preservation Network designated the William Augustus Day House as a Lorain County Historic Landmark. Located at 2837 East River Road, this house is an elegant example of Italianate-style architecture, rare for Sheffield Village. Constructed in 1879 for William Augustus Day, its façade is virtually unchanged from that time. It is the only home in the Sheffield Village still occupied by a descendant of Sheffield founder, Capt. John Day. William Augustus, grandson of Capt. Day, married Mary Steele of Oberlin in 1861. He became a prosperous farmer and real estate entrepreneur. He and his wife were considered to be prominent residents of Sheffield Township in the late 1800s. The Days commissioned architect Elah Terrell to design and construct this elegant home on the original family plot. Once the home was built, the Days traveled to Europe where they purchased musical instruments and other furnishings for their new home. The house has a formality and dignity not usually found in farm homes.

Architect Terrell also designed the Sheffield Village Hall on Detroit Road (1883) that originally served as a district schoolhouse. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Terrell utilized Queen Anne-style Victorian ornamentation on the schoolhouse trim, which he had also incorporated in the porches of the Day House four years earlier. The accompanying illustrations show the elaborate detailing



Architectural drawing of the side elevation for the William Augustus Day House (Elah Terrell, architect 1879).



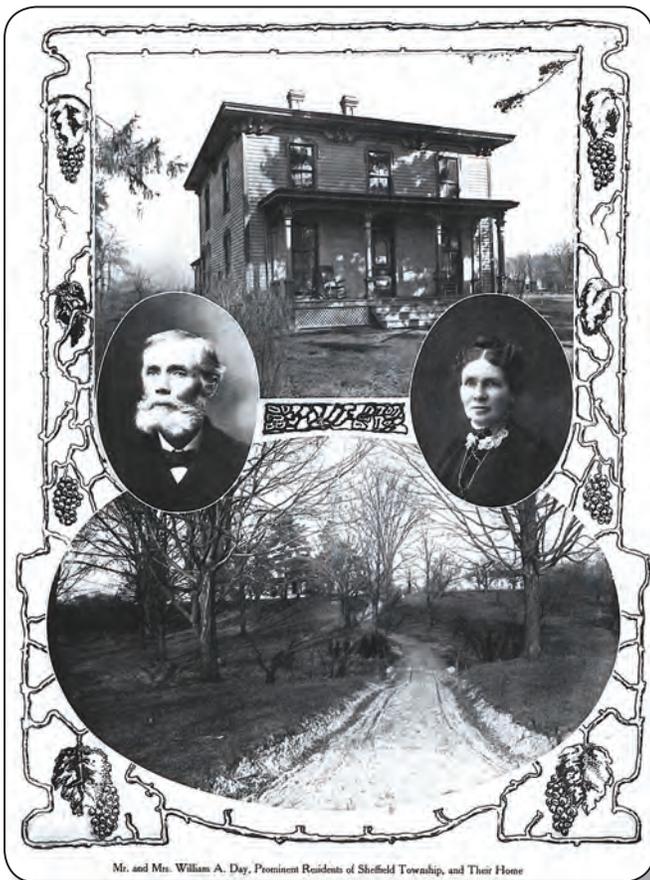
Front porch supports, cornice, and eave brackets on the William Augustus Day House (2008).

surrounding the windows and porches. Typical of Italianate design, the windows are long and narrow.

The widely overhanging eaves are supported by sturdy decorative brackets, which are grouped in pairs. The brackets extend upward from a wide ornamented cornice. Also common in Italianate-style homes of the period (1840-1885), the façade openings are three-ranked. In this case, two windows flank a central main door on the first level while three windows are found on the second level.

The interior is equally impressive. The main section of the first floor contains a large parlor separated from the dining room by an arched double pocket door, as well as two bedrooms and a pantry. The ceilings are ten-feet high. In the late 1800s, the parlor served as the Sheffield Center Post Office, as had the nearby Jabez Burrell house earlier in that century. A 14-step staircase leads from the main entrance to the second floor where four bedrooms are located in the main section. The kitchen and a woodshed are located on the lower level of a rear wing which holds a bedroom and storage room on the upper level. A rear stairway leads from the woodshed to the storage room.

Another feature of the Day House is the attractive wooded setting of the property. A long driveway with a stone bridge that crosses Day Brook leads from East River Road to the house. The house currently sits on a five-acre parcel of land that adjoins the Lorain County Metro Parks' French Creek Reservation. Currently, William Augustus Day's great granddaughter, Carol [Day] Minda, and her husband, Andrew, dwell in this home.



Home of William Augustus and Mary (Steele) Day as it appeared in the early 1900s (illustration by O. H. Monroe 1906).

SAVING DANIEL GARFIELD'S BARN

Daniel Garfield (1833-1911) was the third son of Milton and Tempe Garfield who were among the first settlers on North Ridge in Sheffield. After his father's death in 1862, Daniel farmed the land on the northeastern side of the Garfield Homestead. During or soon after the Civil War, Daniel built a fine country-style barn on North Ridge. The barn's attractive roof was constructed from over 6,000 individual pieces of slate. About 75 years ago the barn was moved several hundred feet to the north, near the slope of the Ridge, to accommodate a lower level, which was added in the form of a bank barn. The barn continued to be used for agricultural pursuits for nearly a century and half, until 2004 when the ten-acre property on which it was located was sold by John Laskin to Arch Abraham for the construction of a Nissan automobile dealership.

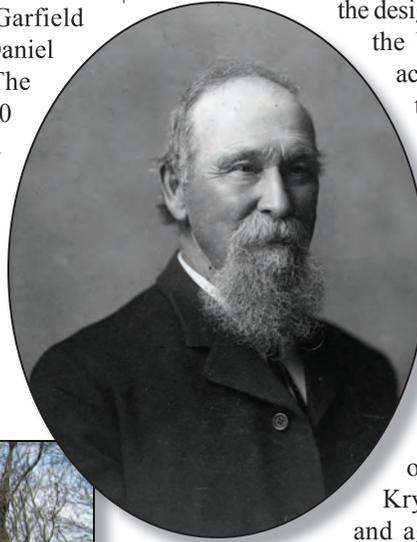


Daniel Garfield Barn, originally built in Sheffield in the 1860s. The barn is shown here in its position on the original Milton Garfield plot shortly before it was dismantled and moved to Avon in 2005.



Daniel Garfield Barn frames exposed during dismantlement (2005).

When the barn was scheduled to be demolished, the Sheffield Village Historical Society contacted Mr. Abraham to advise him of the historical importance of the building and to ask if there was a way that the building could be incorporated into the design for the dealership. Although saving the barn on the property could not be accommodated, Mr. Abraham offered to donate the building for preservation elsewhere. A search was begun for a local site for relocation and for a perspective person or organization interested in preserving the barn.



Daniel Garfield (1833-1911).

In October 2004, the Village of Sheffield Council supported this effort by passing Resolution No. 459, supporting the preservation of the Daniel Garfield Barn. The Lorain County Historical Society offered to serve as broker and Ron Krystowski of Avon stepped forward and agreed to disassemble the barn and



Ron Krystowski at the main door of the restored Daniel Garfield Barn. The new location is 39036 French Creek Road in Avon.



Restored Daniel Garfield Barn in Avon.

rebuild it on his property at 39036 French Creek Road. All of the timbers were numbered, each roof slate was individually taken down, and the entire barn was removed in early 2005. The next year, with the help of the Avon Historical Society, special approval was granted by the City of Avon for reconstruction of

the barn on the Krystowski property. As part of the arrangement to receive the barn, Ron Krystowski agreed to "...periodically make the building available for showing to the public as a historical artifact."

After several years of painstaking work, Ron completed the reconstruction of the barn. As the accompanying photographs attest, the barn was restored to its original glory. All of the Historical Societies involved in this effort salute Ron Krystowski for his dedication and perseverance to complete this project in such an honorable way.

DECHANT FARM ON NORTH RIDGE

The DeChant Farm once encompassed 75 acres on the south side of North Ridge about a quarter of a mile east of Abbe Road and an additional 24 acres to the north of Detroit Road. The sandy soils of North Ridge proved ideal for hay and row crops and later for growing tomatoes in heated greenhouses. Early records show that this part of North Ridge was surveyed as Lot 2 of Sheffield Township and was first settled by Freeman Richmond and his wife in February 1816. Mrs. Richmond has the distinction of being the first female settler in Sheffield, but she died in 1819. In April of 1816 Freeman's brother, William, also settled on Lot 2.

The 1851 Tax Map for Sheffield Township shows that Luther Owen owned 99 acres of land in Lot 2, located on both the north



Joseph Townshend House, 5474 Detroit Road, built circa 1855, later owned by the Mackert and DeChant families..

and south sides of North Ridge. A census of Lorain County in 1827 lists the Sheffield Township adult white male population at 44; Luther Owen is among those listed, but the Richmond brothers are absent. In 1865 Sheffield Historian, Norman Day, reported the owner of Lot 2 was Joseph Townshend (1811-1883). In 1858 Joseph married Sarah A. Hackett (1823-1902). Sarah is believed to have been the widow of Joseph Hackett (1808-1857). The 1874 Tax Map for Sheffield Township shows that Joseph owned 90 acres in Lot 2 and that he had a residence on the south side of the ridge. This house still stands at 5474 Detroit Road and was the home of Alice [Mackert] DeChant until her death in 2013. Alice was born in this house on November 11, 1917.

This wood-frame house was built circa 1855 by Joseph Townshend in typical Greek Revival-style with Italianate decoration, especially on the front porch. The basic proportions of this house, its bold simple cornice on the front gable, and its main doorway with sidelights and transom windows are typical Greek Revival features. The elaborate bracketed entrance porch is Italianate, and may have been a later addition. A similarly decorated porch once existed along the east side of the one-story wing, with an entrance door to the kitchen area. The plan of the house is a “T” design with a high, two-story front gable that faces north, toward Detroit Road. The house has 6 rooms on the 1st floor, 5 rooms on the 2nd floor, and a basement. The foundation is constructed of locally quarried sandstone. The interior has two white marble fireplaces and a brightly painted ceiling rosette in the front parlor, which features an outer ring of grapes on a vine and an inner ring of roses. The original interior frames for the doors and windows have been retained and exhibit elaborate geometric designs at their corners. This house was listed on the Ohio Historic Inventory in 1976.

The 1896 Tax Map for Sheffield Township shows that Sarah A. Townshend owned the property and house after her husband Joseph died in 1883. When Sarah died in 1902 the farm is believed to have been purchased by the Jungbluth family.



Marble fireplace in the front parlor of the Joseph Townshend House.

Next, Andrew and Clara Mackert (Alice’s parents) acquired the house and 72-acre farm about 1910—possibly in a trade with the Jungbluth family for two farms on Abbe Road at the French Creek Road crossing. In any case, the 1915 Sheffield Township Tax Map shows Andrew Mackert (1870-1948) as the owner.

In addition to growing crops, the family raised cattle for St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland. Whenever the Seminary needed meat, the Mackerts would butcher a steer and send it to Cleveland. The Mackerts had three children: Raymond (born 1913), Gilbert (born 1914), and Alice (born 1917). When Alice was 14, her mother Clara (1863-1931) was picking strawberries with several farm workers when a rainstorm hit. They all ran under a nearby tree for shelter from the thundering storm. A nail in the tree may have attracted a lightning bolt and Clara was killed instantly. Decades later the family invited a “water witcher” to help them find a place to dig a well for irrigation. Using a dowsing rod, he paused at the place where the lightning had struck in 1931, and to the astonishment of the DeChants, the dowser gave a warning, “Beware, this is a place where lightning will strike.”

In 1935, Alice married Charles P. DeChant (1914-1997), son of Edward W. DeChant (1888-1972) and Florence M. DeChant (1894-1968). Charles and Alice had 4 children: Charles (Chuck, born 1937), William (Bill, born 1939), Clara (1941-1989), and Sharon (born 1946). Charles and Alice, and later their children, operated the farm for some 70 years—first as a truck farm supplying the Cleveland market, then in 1953 they constructed greenhouses on 3.2 acres of the farm. This was the second largest of the 10 greenhouses that once stood on Sheffield’s North Ridge. Chuck DeChant was proud of their greenhouse production record—they were the top tomato grower for 7 years with the best yield/acre in the region. Chuck and Bill were able to keep the greenhouses in operation until 2003, when environmental constraints, rising fuel costs (up to \$20,000/month for natural gas), and imported tomatoes forced them to close and to demolish the greenhouses.

When Bill was a senior at Brookside High School (Class of 1957), he decided to continue the family farming tradition. The Fisher family owned the land north of his father’s farm. They offered to sell him 24 acres of farmland for \$10,000 with 10



Ceiling rosette in the front parlor of the Joseph Townshend House.

years to pay it off with a low interest rate and a 5-year grace period. Bill farmed this land for a number of years and operated the greenhouse. When a sewer line came down Abbe Road in 1975, Bill was eventually able to gain access to this essential utility for development, which in turn made possible the Village Reserve housing and business complex on his former farm.

More recently the DeChant family sold much of the old farm on the south side of Detroit Road to the Methodist Wesleyan Meadows development. The purchase agreement gave Alice life estate privileges to dwell in the old house for as long as she wishes. Before her death Alice mentioned that she hoped the Wesleyan organization would continue to preserve this fine example of a mid-19th century farmhouse. The Sheffield Village Historical Society certainly echoes Alice's sentiments and has encouraged any future developments on the farm to incorporate the DeChant homestead as a historic centerpiece. Chuck DeChant and his wife Germaine built a brick house at the east side of the property in the 1960s; he died in 2012. Bill now resides this wife Gretta in La Quinta, California.



Andrew Mackert (Alice DeChant's father), cultivating the family farm on North Ridge, Sheffield Village in 1946. Andrew was 76 years old when this photograph was taken (DeChant family). Andrew (1870-1948) and his wife Clara (1863-1931) are buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Avon.



Aerial view of DeChant Greenhouse circa 1952. This color view toward the southeast shows the façade of the 1855 farmhouse, several barns and other outbuildings, the initial four units of the greenhouse, and the irrigation pond that was expanded when gravel was extracted to construct the Ohio Turnpike. The pond is spring fed and can yield 16,000 gallon/minute with no more that a 4-foot drawdown (DeChant family).



Young Chuck DeChant trying his hand driving the farm's Celtrac circa 1940 (DeChant family).



Charles DeChant driving his Ford tractor and hauls a load of cauliflower boxes and farm workers in the 1940s (DeChant family).

FARMS ON THE LAKE ERIE SHORE

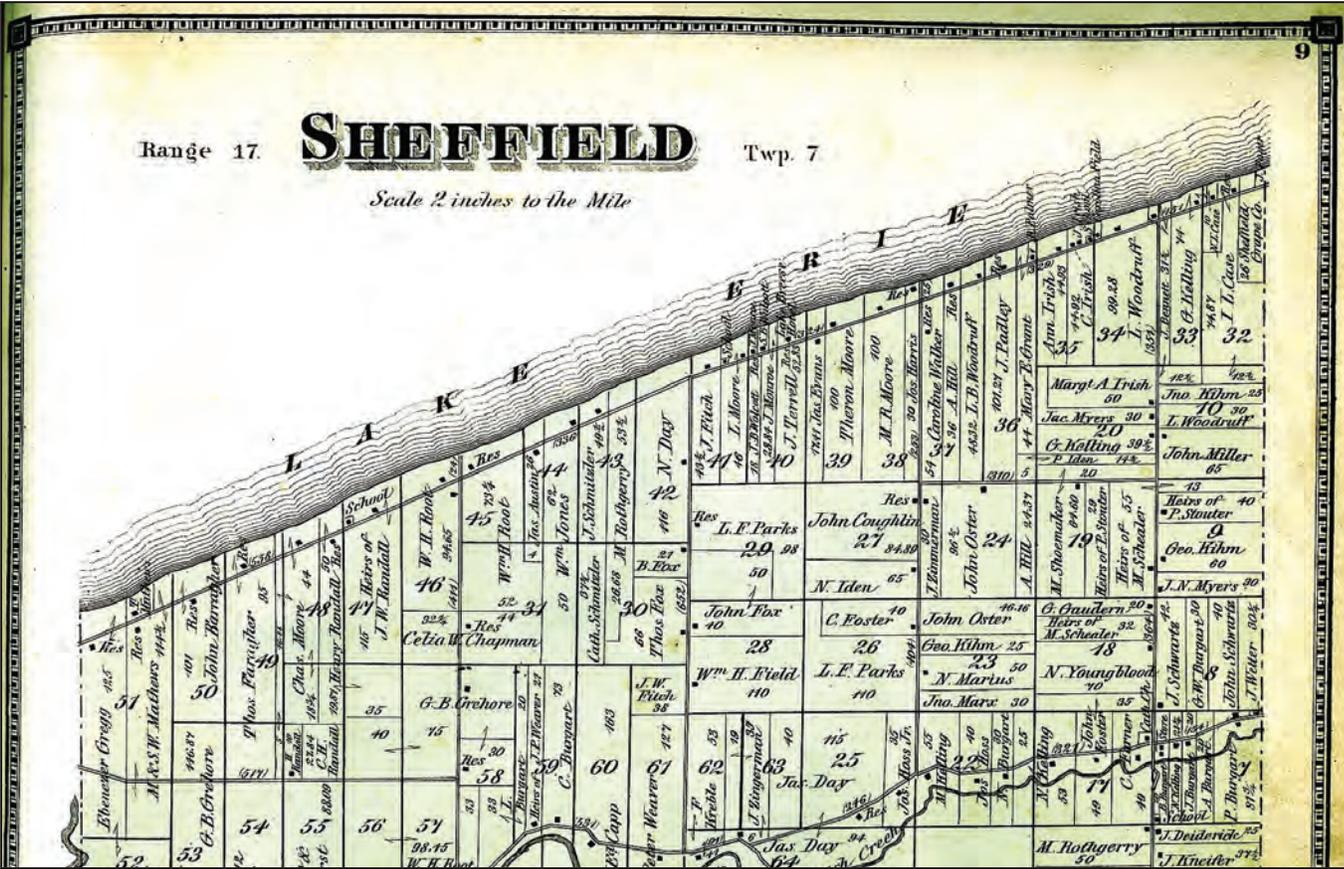
The sandy soils of the ancient beach ridges, a few miles south the lake, are fertile and attracted a continuous stream of New England and New York farmers in the early 1800s. In 1817 a school was built on the bluff of Sugar Creek where it debouches into French Creek. The log building also served the growing settlement, known as Sheffield Center, as a place for community meetings, worship, and other social activities. Dr. Preston Pond of Keene, New Hampshire served as the first headmaster of what some called "the best school in the Western Reserve." In the first decades two sawmills and a gristmill were constructed to serve the needs of the growing settlement. By 1827 the male adult population of Sheffield was 44, which considering the large of families at the time translates to a total population of somewhat over 200 individuals.

The land along the lakeshore was considered less desirable to the early settlers because of its heavy clay content, although it grew enormous hardwood trees. However, when the Bavarian settlers began arriving in Sheffield in the 1840s, they soon discovered that the land was excellent for growing grapes and as pastures for their livestock, particularly dairy cattle.

Nineteen century tax maps of Sheffield Township offer a wealth of information about the early settlement pattern. By 1851 (date of the first available map) some 27 families had acquired property along the 5.35 miles of Lake Erie shoreline in the original Sheffield Township. These families, from west

to east, included: Gregg, Frink, Bennett, Stebbins, Freeman, Mack, Address, Stephens, Jameson, Randall, Mullon, Root, Beldon, Day, Fitch, Swan, Gawn, Moore, Woodruff, Sheldon, Cuyler, Lucas, Adams, Buck, Burkart, Osgood, and Lewis. In several cases families, such as the Days and Roots, owned several parcels interspersed along the shore—only the westernmost is indicated here.

Nearly a quarter of a century later, in 1874, a total of 32 families had established homesteads along the lakeshore and constructed 38 dwellings. These families included, from west to east, Gregg, Mathews, Crehore, Barragher, Faragher, Moore, Randall, Root, Austin, Jones, Schmitzler, Rothgerry, Day, Fitch, Moore, Wolcott, Monroe, Terrell, Evans, Harris, Walker, Hill, Woodruff, Padley, Grant, Palmer, Irish, Field, Bennett, Kelling, Case, and Payer. The lakeshore community also consisted of three schools and a resort hotel (Lake Breeze House), all of which were located on the bluff overlooking the lake. All but nine of the dwellings were also located on the shore side of Lake Road. The only commercial holding, other than Jay Terrell's Lake Breeze House was at the far northeastern corner of the township where the 26-acre Sheffield Grape Company was located. In terms of size, many of the farms were in 40-acre to 60-acre range and a few smaller, but several families had combined lakeshore homesteads of over 100 acres: Moore (290), Root (220), Randall (168), Woodruff (148), Irish (140), Gregg (125), Day (117), Mathews (115), Barragher (101) and Padley (101).



Ownership map of lakeshore portion of Sheffield Township in 1874. Dwellings are shown as small black squares.

As the century drew to a close, the 1896 Tax Map shows that most of the older families still remained property on the lakeshore, but the land was beginning to be subdivided and several new families also dwelled there. The eastern five township lots (No. 46-51, lying west of Root Road) had recently been annexed by Lorain, including the property belonging to the Gregg, Faragher, Wallace, Randall, and Day families. From Root Road east, 27 dwellings were located on the lakeshore for the following families: Root, Austin, Schmitzler, Rothgerry, Gawn, Minnick, Moore, Wolcott, Monroe, Lewis, Manville, Harris, Ferner, Hill, Bennington, Padley, Irish, Woodruff, Bennett, Kelling, Case, Koblaka, Owen, and Schmitz. On annexed Lots No. 47 and 48 George Randall had developed Randall's Grove, a resort complex with lakefront cottages, a dance hall, and a racetrack. The two schools east of Root Road continued to operate as Sheffield Township District No. 5 Schoolhouse (just east of Lake Breeze Road) and District No. 3 Schoolhouse (a short distance west of Abbe Road). The New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad (also known as the Nickel Plate Road) was completed south of the lakeshore in 1881. By 1896 the Lorain Street Railway had constructed an electric trolley streetcar line front downtown Lorain to Root Road. At the railway's eastern terminus, on the southeast corner of Lake and Root Roads, a streetcar barn for servicing the trolleys and a power station to generating the line's electricity were also constructed. A short distance farther east was located the Lake Breeze Post Office on the farm of James Austin, postmaster.

Starting in the west and progressing eastward along the Lake Erie shore a number of historic homes are found in Sheffield Lake, a few of which are highlighted here along with several 19th century buildings that have been lost. Images are from the Sheffield Village Historical Society collection.

William Root House

In 1816, as young boys William and his brother Aaron Root walked over 500 miles through the wilderness with their parents to start a new home in Sheffield. In 1850 William built this elegant Greek Revival-style home on a Lake Erie bluff at the foot of Root Road. William was a banker and served as Lorain County auditor from 1855 to 1861. The house once had a Victorian-style porch, but now the original façade has been restored.

Lake Breeze Post Office

The Lake Breeze Post Office was located in the home of Postmaster James Austin in the 1890s. This 1896 photograph shows the house to be a modified Greek Revival-style farmhouse with a two-story front gable and matching one-story wings on the east and west sides of the house. Austin was found of hosting Sheffield's annual August picnic at his homestead. The old house was torn down to make way for the Mariner's Watch subdivision.

Norman Day Farm

Norman Day was 13 years old when he arrived in Sheffield with his parents, Sheffield founder Capt. John Day and his wife Lydia [Austin] Day. He and his cousin William Root, were the



William Root House at 3535 East Erie Avenue with Victorian-style porch (above view) and with original façade restored (lower view).



Lake Breeze Post Office once located just east of Root Road on the south side of Lake Road.

first to chronicle the events in the early settlement. He owned Lot 42 (117 acres) on Lake Breeze Road that stretched from the lakeshore to just north of the present-day railroad tracts. He built a Greek Revival-style farmhouse in the 1840s and farmed the land for four decades. He is buried in the Day Family Plot of Garfield Cemetery.

One of Norman's most enduring accounts deals with a bear and a boy from the lakeshore. Peter Miller, a lad of 17 from Avon's shore, encountered a black bear and 2 cubs in the swampy wilderness while returning home to the lakeshore after laboring at Sheffield Center. He attempted to escape by climbing a smooth elm tree, but the bear followed. By kicking, he repulsed the bear twice but lost his boots in the process. On the bear's third attempt, both boy and bear tumbled to the ground and Peter ran barefooted to safety in Sheffield. Norman Day and several other settlers rallied with guns and dogs to seek revenge on the aggressor, but the bear and her cubs escaped by the time they found the elm tree. When night came and Peter did not return home, an anxious father and friends, fearing some evil must have befallen him, set out through the wilderness with lighted torches. They found him in Sheffield, well cared for and snugly in bed, having narrowly escaped a horrible death. The tale of Peter Miller found its way into *McGuffey's Reader*, bringing fame to Sheffield.



Norman Day monument at Garfield Cemetery.

John Fox House

The John Fox House on Lake Breeze Road was built in the 1840s and is believed to be the oldest homestead still standing on that road. This wood-frame farmhouse of Greek Revival style was

likely built soon after John Fox settled at Sheffield in 1846. This front-gabled house still exhibits its original slate roof. The elaborate front porch may have been added at a later date, as homes of this style rarely had porches.



John Fox House at 998 Lake Breeze Road.

Lake Breeze House

In 1860 Jay Terrell operated this Lake Erie resort. An avid fossil collector, in 1867 Terrell discovered armor plates of an ancient fish in the shale cliffs. The fish lived 375 million years ago in the Devonian Sea that covered Ohio. Terrell presented specimens to Dr. John Newberry of the Ohio Geological Survey, who named the new species *Dunkelosteus terrelli* in honor of the discoverer. Today, the Lake Breeze Inn is located near where the old resort once stood.



Norman Day House, built in 1841 (circa 1934).



Lake Breeze House once located east of Lake Breeze Road on the north side of Lake Road.

John Ferner House

In the late 1800s the farmland on Harris Road from the lakeshore to Oster Road was owned Sebastian Ferner. His homestead, built on Lake Road has since been demolished. In 1905, his son John married Margaret Biltz. As a wedding present, Sebastian gave the couple a plot of land at the corner of Harris and Lake Roads. The next year John constructed a charming Victorian-style home with a stone porch and fine interior detailing for his bride.



John Ferner House at 4706 Lake Road.

Joseph Hiram Padley Farm

Once located on the lakeshore, just east of Harris Road, the Padley Homestead was one of the first farms on the lakeshore. Joseph Padley built the Vernacular-style farmhouse in the in 1860 on the shore and farm 100 acres on the south side of Lake Road. In the 1970s the house served as a nunnery for the Sisters of Notre Dame at St. Thomas Catholic Church on Harris Road. More recently it was remodeled as a private residence. In the early 1950s the land south of the Lake Road was sold for the Knickerbocker Knolls housing development on Irving Park.



The Joseph Hiram Padley House, built in 1860 on his 101-acre farm east of Harris Road. The view shows that Lake Road was still a dirt road in the late 1800s. The stepping-stone at the roadside was used for ladies arriving in carriages.



This recent view shows the old Joseph Hiram Padley House remodeled as a private residence.

Sheffield historian Doris Burrell (1903-1997) collected and preserved a number of photographs of the early farms that once occupied the Sheffield Lake lakeshore. She presented these to Sheffield Lake's Domonkas Library in 1975 as 35 mm slides, mounted in a cartridge for a carousel projector. A selection of images, digitally scanned, are presented here that depict life on the Padley Homestead over 100 years ago.



Joseph Padley with his work horses in the late 1800s.



Haying on the Padley farm in the late 1800s. Hay was harvested with a team of horses pilling a hay wagon to which a hay loader was attached. The loader was put in motion by the turning of its wheels as it was drawn along behind the wagon.



The Padley's, like most farmers in the 1800s raised chickens along with other typical farm animals and crops with the intent to be as self-sufficient as possible.



The Padley family calling on the Youngblood family of Abbe Road, circa 1900.



Dora Padley and her daughter Marcella (later Mrs. William Serian) churning butter in the back dooryard of the homestead.

Jehiel Palmer House

Built on the site of an earlier lakeshore dwelling, this Victorian-style home with a slate roof was constructed by Jehiel Palmer in 1871. The current owners, Richard and Linda Ackerman have lived in the house for four decades. An immense white oak tree on the property, just east of the house, has a breast-high diameter of over six feet and a estimated age in excess of 200 years.



Jehiel Palmer House at 4891 Lake Road.

Woodruff House

Built circa 1880, this Italianate-style house on the lakeshore was the homestead of Lewis and Huldah Woodruff. The Woodruff's 99-acre farm was adjacent to District No. 3 Schoolhouse, also built in the 1880s. Their son, Harry Woodruff, who later owned the house, was the first mayor the Village of Sheffield Lake when it was formed in 1920. The first airfield in the area was located on the mayor's farm at the corner of Abbe and Lake Roads.



Woodruff House at 5156 Lake Road.

ANTON JUNGBLUTH HOMESTEAD

The first members of the Jungbluth family to make their home in Sheffield were Antone (1802-1898) and Margaret (1803-1891) Jungbluth. Born in Prussia, they immigrated to the United States in 1856 and eventually acquired two farms on Abbe Road. The 1860 census shows the Jungbluths with 4 children: John (born 1842), Nichols (born 1844), Peter (born 1847), and Antone Jr. (born 1849).

By 1900 Antone Jr. had married Catherine (born 1852, also of German ancestry) and they had 6 children: Anne (born 1875), Mary (1876), Catherine “Kate” (born 1897), John (born 1883), Bernard “Barney” (born 1885), and Frank (born 1891). Antone Sr. had died the year before and now Antone, Jr. (who then used the name Anton) owned the farm. He also had become a naturalized citizen of the United States. It was about 1900 that he built his homestead at 2942 Abbe Road. It stood on the west side of the road between French Creek Road and the railroad tracks. The infamous “Jungbluth Ditch,” actually a channelized portion of Sugar Creek, ran through the back of the farm. The house stood for nearly 100 years before being torn down.

The Anton Jungbluth House was a 2-story, wood-frame structure, best described as a turn of the century, vernacular farmhouse. A prominent feature was an expansive front porch that extended one third of the way along the north side of the house and was highlighted by decorative railings, roof support posts, and overhead trim. A rear porch, also on the north side, exhibited similar design features. The basic plan of the house was a “T” shape with gables on the east, west, and north sides, which enclosed a large attic. A low extension on the rear of the house (west) also had a gable roof. This house was one of the finest examples of a Sheffield farmhouse from a century ago.

About this time is when Anton built the house at 2942 Abbe Road. The 1910 census lists another daughter for Anton and Catherine, Irene (born 1902), and that son Bernard’s trade was “steam railroad.” Catherine died on July 9, 1937 and Anton passed away on February 2, 1947—the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram* obituary for Anton stated “a retired farmer, who would

have been 98 on next Sunday, and who was probably the oldest living Lorain Countian, passed away Sunday in his home on Abbe Road, in which he had lived for 94 years.” However, the first five decades of his life were probably spent in an older home of his father, Antone Sr. The house was then managed by Bernard Jungbluth until his death in 1962. The family eventually sold Anton’s house and farm to George Mislinski where he raised horses. Mislinski later sold the property to Conrail for a stocking and switching yard for the automobile assembly plant at the northeastern corner of the Village. The railroad yard never materialized, but when asbestos was discovered, the Anton Jungbluth House was demolished by the railroad in 1999.



Anton Jungbluth (1802-1898) and Catherine [Young] Jungbluth (1852-1937).



Anton Jungbluth House, built circa 1900 and demolished 1999.



Anton Jungbluth’s homestead barns.



Anton Jungbluth harvesting hay on his farm in 1931.



Anton's son, Barney, with team of horses and cultivator on his Abbe Road farm.

GUBENO–KRIEBEL–CONRAD HOMESTEAD

This house is located in Sheffield Village at 2976 Abbe Road. A classical Greek Revival-style farmhouse, it is believed to have been built by Andrew Gubeno between 1860 and 1865 on the west side of Bennett Road (renamed Abbe Road in 1934). Andrew was born in France in March 1821 and died in Sheffield in 1891. He married Mary Mueller about 1847. They had five children, one of which was John Gubeno. Andrew's great granddaughter, Ruth Veronica Guggenbiller [Kriebel] now of Medina, Ohio, recalls her mother (Katherine [Gubeno] Kriebel) telling her children how their grandfather (John Gubeno) carried slate singles up to the roof when he was 14, which was considered quite a task for a boy so young.

Andrew and Mary Gubeno are buried in St. Teresa Cemetery in Sheffield Village. The 1874 Sheffield Township Tax Map gives the owner's name as H. Gubernough for this property and shows a dwelling on the 25-acre parcel in Lot 15. On the 1896 Tax Map of Sheffield Township the same parcel is owned by John Gubeno.

Katherine M. Gubeno was born on January 10, 1879 at the farmhouse. Her mother was Eva Forster and her father was John Gubeno. In May 1901 she married Simon Kriebel and the couple took up residence in the farmhouse. Simon was also born in the Sheffield—his parents immigrated to Ohio from Bavaria. The house was situated on the 25-acre farm with a barn located on the south side. To supplement the family income from the



View from the east of the Andrew Gubeno-Simon Kriebel House in 1907 showing Katherine and Simon Kriebel with their children (left to right) Lucille, Alma, and Hilda (Ruth [Kriebel] Guggenbiller).

farm, Simon served as Street Commissioner for the Village (1938-1939). His daughter, Ruth Guggenbiller, still remembers him operating a grader to keep the cinder roads of the Village smooth.

The original road grader owned by the Village was a McCormick-Deering Warco One-Man Grader (Model H-P) fabricated by the W.A. Riddell Company in Bucyrus, Ohio in August 1928. After many years of service in the Village the grader was deemed obsolete and was auctioned by Jim Wagner as scrap to Gerald Eschtruth of Amherst Township. For \$80 he got the grader and a large trailer. Eschtruth got the grader running again and in about 1958 he sold it to Fred (Fritz) Caley of 3559 East River Road in Sheffield Village. Here, the grader languished in a field for several decades. In 2003 Fred's son-in-law, Frank Root, Jr. of Avon, Ohio, had the grader restored to its original condition by Lou DeLong who operates a restoration company in Medina County. The grader has four steering wheels—one to operate a scarifier used to break up the surface of the road, two for controlling the depth and position of the scraper blade, and a fourth in the center for steering the grader itself.

When asked if she had any other particular recollections of life in the farmhouse, Ruth Guggenbiller mentioned the poplar trees on either side of the walk. The leaves would rustle and scared her like it was going to rain when she walked to "Grandpa"



Sheffield Village's first road grader (fabricated 1928) in disrepair at Caley Farm before restoration (Frank Root, Jr.).

Anton Jungbluth's house next door to deliver half-gallon tins of milk. Ruth Guggenbiller wrote the author an interesting letter to the Historical Society describing an astounding incident: "In the 1930s—I was in high school a small airplane crashed in our yard about 20 feet from the barn. The pilot was a young man from East Cleveland on his first solo flight. The plane had motor problems. He circled around for a long time. My dad tried to flag him down in the field but that didn't happen. All of Sheffield was out watching and waiting for the crash. He was taken to St. Joseph Hospital in Lorain where he died the next morning."

Simon and Katherine Kriebel raised their family of nine children in the farmhouse:

- Albert Kriebel (born 1902)
- Hilda R. Kriebel (born August 3, 1903)
- Alma K. Kriebel (born May 6, 1905)
- Lucille R. Kriebel (born June 10, 1906)
- Leon John Kriebel (born May 18, 1911)
- Dorothy Rose Kriebel (born 1915)
- Josephine C. Kriebel (born 1916)
- Ruth Veronica Kriebel (born April 13 1920)
- Bernetta Marie Kriebel (born February 11, 1923)

Simon died at the age of 64 on October 21, 1939 in Lorain's St. Joseph Hospital and was buried in St. Teresa Cemetery. Katherine continued living in the house until 1944 when she moved to Elyria and died there on February 10, 1955 in Memorial Hospital at the age of 76. She was also buried in St. Teresa Cemetery.

In 1944 Harold C. Freshwater, a Lorain schoolteacher, and his wife Leah Jane purchased the house. Harold was born on May 14, 1908 and died in Fort Myers, Florida on October 1, 1987. Leah Jane was born July 28, 1908 and also died in Fort Myers, Florida fourteen years after Harold on October 15, 2001. The Lorain telephone directory for 1945 lists Harold Freshwater as the resident of the house, but the ownership may have been in his wife's name. On December 10, 1948, Jane (as she was known) sold the house to LeRoy Jungbluth as reported in the December 20, 1948 issue of the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*.

LeRoy Jungbluth rented the house to George and Rose Holbury and George's mother Mary Holbury [Filmer]. In September 1949 Leroy Conrad and his wife Winifred [Holbury] and their daughters, Sandra and Linda, moved in with the Holbury family. Leroy was born in 1918 and Winifred born in 1921. The Conrads' son, James, was born to the couple in 1952, Marian in 1954, Michael in 1957, Judy in 1958, and Kathy in 1961. Mary Holbury, died in February of 1952. In March 1953, LeRoy Jungbluth sold the house to Leroy Conrad on a 1-acre plot of land, retaining the other 24 acres of the original Gubeno-Kriebel plot as farmland. In late 1953 George and Rose Holbury moved to Lorain.

The Conrads remained in the house and raised their family of seven children. Winifred died in 1997. Leroy died in 2003, willing the house to his youngest daughter, Kathleen, who currently makes her residence there.



The Andrew Gubeno-Simon Kriebel-Leroy Conrad House 2007.



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