

Unique process for recovering the remains of the brig Niagara by jetting a stiff water hose under the hull to which a lifting chain was attacked (Scientific American Magazine, 1913).



In anticipation of Perry's victory, General Harrison ordered the construction of 80 scows at Cleveland, Ohio to transport 4,500 troops and artillery for an amphibious invasion of Canada near Amherstburg. Commodore Perry used the American fleet and captured British vessels to tow the scows (photograph of scows similar to those used for the invasion, Patrick Labadie).

# Battle of the Thames

With the British fleet captured, General William Henry Harrison, with the assistance of Commodore Perry, mounted an amphibious invasion of Canada near Amherstburg and defeated General Henry Procter at the Battle of the Thames [Moraviantown, Upper Canada] on October 5<sup>th</sup>. During the battle, Col. Richard Johnson of the Kentucky Militia led a charge of 1,000 mounted horsemen against the British and Indian forces. As the cavalry descended on the Indians the horsemen shouted "Remember the Raisin"—a battle cry in reference to the Indian massacre of 60 American prisoners at the Raisin River, Michigan Territory in January 1813, where then Col. Henry Procter had promised protection. In the battle, Col. Johnson himself killed the Shawnee Indian leader, Chief Tecumseh, in retribution for the massacre. Tecumseh's warriors carried the chief's body

into the swamp and disappeared from the field of battle. Leaving Lt. Col. Augustus Warburton to surrender, General Procter fled east with his family. General Harrison returned to Fort Detroit where he left 1,000 men to defend the fort, discharged the Kentucky volunteers, and led another 1,300 men to the Niagara Frontier and on to Sackets Harbor for the winter.



The death of Chief Tecumseh at the hands of Colonel Richard Johnson during the Battle of the Thames (Library of Congress). General Harrison and Commodore Perry can be seen on horseback at the upper left of the painting.



Thames River at Moraviantown, Upper Canada, site of the Battle of the Thames, October 5, 1813.



The death of Tecumseh as depicted in the Frieze of the Rotunda of the United States Capitol (Architect of the Capitol).

#### CHAPTER 8. MILITARY HISTORY

### Surrender of Fort Erie

On July 3, 1814, American General Jacob Brown's army crossed the Niagara River at Black Rock and once again captured Fort Erie. General Brown and General Winfield Scott then proceeded northward toward Chippawa. After a fierce fight with heavy losses on both sides, the Americans were victorious and crossed the Welland River. General Brown continued his advance toward Queenston, but the lack of artillery support promised by Commodore Chauncey, prevented him from retaking Fort George.



Fort Erie (restored), Upper Canada, captured by General Jacob Brown's forces in July 1814.

Later in July, further battles took place along the Canadian shore of the Niagara River in the vicinity of Fort Chippawa. The encounter that took place on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Lundy's Lane near Niagara Falls is considered one of the hardest fought and bloodiest battles of the war with 878 British casualties (killed and wounded) and 860 American casualties. The battle proved to be indecisive with both sides retiring from the field, the Americans to Chippawa and the British to Burlington Heights.

During August, September, and October of 1814, control of Fort Erie was hotly contested. In early August the Americans anticipated a British siege and made improvements to the fort's defenses. The assault came on August 15<sup>th</sup>. During the assault the British gained control of a gun bastion. Suddenly the powder magazine below the bastion blew up killing 400 British troops.



Fort Chippawa, Upper Canada—several bloody battles took place in the vicinity of this fort throughout July 1814.



General Jacob Brown (1775-1828), defender of New York's northern border during the War of 1812 (Library of Congress).



United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. After the War of 1812, General Jacob Brown erected a monument to Lt. Colonel Eleazer Wood in the academy's cemetery. Colonel Wood was the army engineer in charge of constructing the impenetrable Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson in northwestern Ohio. Wood was killed at the Battle of Fort Erie.

#### BICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD

The siege failed with approximately 1,000 British casualties, whereas the Americans suffered less than 90. In September, British General Drummond reinforced a line of three artillery batteries focused on the fort. General Brown ordered General Daniel Davis, Col. James Gibson, and Lt. Col. Eleazer Wood to attack and destroy the batteries. They were successful in spiking the guns and blowing them off their carriages. During the attack Davis and Gibson were killed and Wood mortally wounded. After the war, General Brown erected a monument to Lt. Col. Wood in the cemetery at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, New York.

General Brown turned out to be one of the most competent military leaders to emerge during the War of 1812. After the war, in 1821, he was promoted to the position of the first Commanding General of the U.S. Army, serving in this capacity until his death in 1828. General Winfield Scott served in the same capacity from 1841 to 1861.

### Treaty of Ghent and Aftermath of the War

While the war still raged on in North America, peace negotiations began in August 1814 in Ghent, Belgium. The United States was not in a good bargaining position. The British had conquered Napoleon, releasing experienced veterans to fight in Canada and a British army had invaded and burned Washington. Thus the American representatives at the Treaty of Ghent had little leverage. But the United States, thanks to victories by Commodore Perry and General Harrison, did hold most of Upper Canada west of Lake Ontario. This strengthened the American negotiators' position enough so that they could stave off a British attempt to limit United States sovereignty in Ohio and the western Great Lakes region. The British wanted to make these lands into an Indian countrywhere American pioneers would not be permitted to settle. Countering, American representatives pointed out an accomplished fact-the United States already held the western part of Upper Canada, thus it was unrealistic to ask the Americans to give up not only what they had won in the war, but also territory that America considered its own before the war. The British conceded the point. Today the United States-Canadian border through Lake Erie and westward is the result of Perry's glorious victory. On December 24, 1814 Great Britain and the United States agreed to an eleven-article settlement that stipulated among other things, "All hostilities, both land and sea, shall cease as soon as this treaty shall have been ratified by both parties," and further stated,



Signing of the Treaty of Ghent, Christmas Eve 1814 (painting by Anédée Forestier). British Admiral of the Fleet James Gambier is shaking hands with the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, John Quincy Adams; British Undersecretary of State for War, Henry Goulburn, is carrying a red folder.

"All territory taken by either party from the other during the war shall be restored without delay."

Owing to slow travel by sailing ships across the Atlantic, the text of the proposed peace agreement did not reach Washington until February 11, 1815. Four days later, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, the United States Congress ratified the Treaty of Ghent and the War of 1812 was officially over. The two-and-a-half year war cost the United States about \$200 million. A total of 2,260 American soldiers and sailors were killed. British and their Indian allies loses were equally substantial.

Although the Treaty of Ghent ended the fighting, it did not solve all the problems that led to the war. Not mentioned in the treaty was the United States demand that Great Britain stop illegally searching American ships and impressing United States sailors. Even though the treaty called for the "End of hostilities with all the tribes or nations of Indians" and "Restore all the possessions, rights, and privileges which they may have been entitled to in 1811," Indians continued to be forced from their lands as the United States expanded westward.

On a more positive note, the War of 1812 demonstrated that the Americans would not be bullied by the British Lion. By the end of the war the United States had emerged as a force to be reckoned with on the world stage. Within a few years thereafter, the Rush-Bagot Agreement of 1818 was signed, establishing a demilitarized border between the United States and the United Kingdom [presentday Canada] on the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain. The Louisiana Purchase a decade earlier had expanded the nation's boundary to the Pacific Coast giving rise to the doctrine of Manifest Destiny-the 19th-century belief that the expansion of the United States throughout the American continent was both justified and inevitable. Soon the Mexican War would bring about the realization of this belief, with the acquisition of California and much of the Southwest. The discovery of gold in California would further transform the nation and give it the wealth to become a world power.

### CHAPTER 8. MILITARY HISTORY

# Put-in Bay Celebrates the Bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie

The summer of 2013 at the Village of Put-in-Bay was a seemingly endless procession of spectacular events to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Commodore Perry's victory in the Battle of Lake Erie. To name only a few, on July 4<sup>th</sup> the Village celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of laying the cornerstone for Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, the third highest monument in the country.

Sixteen tall ships arrived in western Lake Erie beginning on August 29<sup>th</sup> to reenact the confrontation that swept Great Britain from Lake Erie and propelled Commodore Perry into the history books as the only commander to capture an entire British fleet. The reenactment on September 2<sup>nd</sup> was a grand event with 1,500 spectator boats surrounding the main vessels. Tall ships portrayed the battle vessels with the tall ship *Peacemaker* serving as the coordination and media vessel for the event.



*Put-in-Bay Harbor in preparation for celebrating the bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie. The reconstructed brig Niagara is docked at the right center of the photograph.* 

# Site of the Battle of Lake Erie

Hundreds of luminaries were ignited along Put-in-Bay Harbor, Gibraltar Island, and the south shore of Middle Bass Island—*Lights of Peace* on the night of September 7<sup>th</sup>, and on the actual anniversary date of September 10<sup>th</sup>, chartered power vessels took over a hundred guests to the site of the battle, about 15 miles west of Put-in-Bay, near West Sister Island. Earlier, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Mobile Bay* had placed a permanent ceremonial buoy marking the battle location at 41°44'50" N latitude and



Second restored brig Niagara at the site of the 1813 Battle of Lake Erie during the bicentennial celebration in September 2013.



Ricki Herdendorf takes part in the Battle of Lake Erie reenactment aboard The Ohio State University research vessel Gibraltar III.

83°02'00" W longitude. A solemn moment was held at the site as representatives of the military services, descendants of the Perry family, and Native American tribesmen took part in a wreath-laying ceremony at the buoy.



Permanent marker buoy placed by the U.S. Coast Guard at the site of the Battle of Lake Erie.





Memorial wreath being placed at the site of the Battle of Lake Erie at noon on September 10, 2013—exactly two hundred years after the battle began.

# Robert E. Lee Maps the Lake Erie Shore

The mention of the name *Robert E. Lee* brings forth images of the revered general of the Confederacy and Civil War battles. But some 25 years before the war that tore our nation apart, young Lt. Robert E. Lee was here in Ohio mapping the shoreline of Lake Erie from Vermilion to Huron as part of an attempt to settle a boundary dispute between Michigan and Ohio. What makes this even more interesting, the home of the son of Historical Society member Robert Bunsey, Sr.—Robert Bunsey, Jr.—is depicted on Lee's 1835 map.

Robert Edward Lee was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia on January 19, 1807. In 1825 he entered West Point Military Academy and enjoyed a distinguished record as a cadet, graduating second in his class, without a single demerit, in 1829. The course of study suited Lee's aptitude perfectly, consisting primarily of engineering, mathematics, and sciences with only cursory attention to the art of war. Lee's high class standing permitted his entry into the U.S. Army's elite Corps of Engineers. Lee's first assignment was to the construction teams for Fort Pulaski near Savannah, Georgia and Fort Monroe at Hampton, Virginia. In 1834 Lee was appointed assistant to the Chief Engineer, Brigadier General Charles Gratiot. In Washington, his primary duties consisted of lobbying Congress on behalf of the Corps of Engineers. Lee's biographer, Brian Holden Reid, put it this way, "His diplomatic skills were appreciated, and in the spring of 1835 he adjudicated in the controversy between Ohio and Michigan over the location of the state boundary. Close acquaintance with politicians and their devious ways did not increase his admiration for the species, although he acquired a skill at dealing with them that would serve him well."

The dispute between Michigan and Ohio originated from conflicting state and federal legislation passed between 1787 and 1805, based on a poor understanding



The Toledo Strip (hatched area), the disputed territory between Michigan and Ohio in the 1830s. The more northern Harris Line, preferred by Ohio, runs from the southern tip of Lake Michigan to North Cape in Maumee Bay, while the more southerly Fulton Line runs due east from the southern tip of Lake Michigan. The Capt. Talcott survey, with Lieutenants Hood and Lee assisting, confirmed the position of the Fulton Line. However, a U.S. Congress compromise of December 1836 awarded the Toledo Strip to Ohio and the Upper Peninsula to Michigan along with statehood. Inset shows plane table and topographic alidade of the type used by Lt. Lee to map the Lake Erie shoreline (Ohio Topographic Survey, C. E. Sherman, Inspector, 1916).

of the geographical features of the Great Lakes at the time. Varying interpretations of the law caused the governments of the State Ohio and the Territory of Michigan to both claim sovereignty over a 468square-mile region along the border, now known as the Toledo Strip. When Michigan sought statehood in the early 1830s, it sought to include the disputed territory within its boundaries. Ohio's Congressional delegation was in turn able to halt Michigan's admission to the Union until the dispute was resolved. In 1835 both sides passed legislation attempting to force the other side's capitulation. Ohio's governor, Robert Lucas, and Michigan's, Stevens T. Mason, were both unwilling to cede jurisdiction of the Strip. Both sides raised militias and imposed criminal penalties for citizens submitting to the other's authority. The militias were mobilized and sent to positions on opposite sides of the Maumee River near Toledo. Besides taunting across the river, there was little interaction between the two forces in what has come to be known as the "bloodless Toledo War."

Thus, in the spring of 1835 Capt. Andrew Talcott was dispatched to northern Ohio to the survey the Lake Erie shore and draft accurate maps of the shoreline. The



*Lt. Robert E. Lee, painted by William E. West in 1838. Lee is wearing the dress uniform of a Lieutenant of Engineers (Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, where General Lee served as university president after the Civil War).* 

officers in Talcott's survey party included 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Washington Hood and 28-year-old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Robert E. Lee. The purpose of the survey was also to accurately fix the boundary with Canada. To accomplish this, a survey station was established on Point Pelee, Ontario and observation towers were constructed along the Ohio shore.

Bonfires were set ablaze on Point Pelee, which permitted triangulation from the south shore, thereby determining the precise dimension of that portion of Lake Erie. The survey, and the resulting map drawn by Lt. Hood, titled Ohio Boundary No. 111 South bend of Lake Erie: Map exhibiting the position occupied in the determination of the most southwardly point of the boundary line between the United States and Canada, included considerable detail along the Ohio shore west of Vermilion, including the location of early homesteads. One of these was the dwelling of Almon Ruggles, original surveyor of the Firelands section of the Connecticut Western Reserve in 1808. Another was the homestead of the Ackerman family (about one quarter mile to the east of the Ruggles farm), which is now the home of Bob Bunsey, Jr. and his wife Lucy.

In December 1836 the Michigan territorial government surrendered the Toledo Strip under pressure from Congress and President Andrew Jackson by accepting a proposed resolution adopted in the U.S. Congress. Under the compromise, Michigan gave up its claim to the Strip in exchange for its statehood and the Upper Peninsula. Although the compromise was considered a poor outcome for Michigan at the time, the later discovery of copper and iron deposits and the plentiful timber in the Upper Peninsula has offset Michigan's loss of Toledo. To learn more about the Ohio-Michigan conflict, readers are directed to a book titled The War Between States: The Border Dispute Between Michigan and Ohio by Sheffield Village Historical Society Trustee, Matthew D. Bliss, and published by Publish America of Baltimore in 2009.

Remarkably, the early 1800s Greek Revival-style farmhouse that once was home to the Ackerman family and depicted on the 1835 map was still standing in 1980, but in poor condition and in danger of being lost to Lake Erie shore erosion as the bluff receded ever closer to the foundation. Bob Bunsey, Jr. bought it that year for \$50,000 with the idea of fixing it up for resale. With plans drawn by his father, Bob Bunsey, Sr., young Bob began the task of renovating the house. As he worked on the ancient structure he fell in love with the place, as well as with his girlfriend, Lucy, as they worked together to save the old house. One day he got his nerve up to propose to Lucy, but with his dad constantly there to help he couldn't get Lucy alone long enough to ask for her hand. Finally when he asked his dad to "please leave for awhile," Bob, Sr. got the message and Lucy said, "yes."

After 30 years the renovation work continues, with plans to finish a third floor with dormers that overlook the lake on the north and gather sunlight on the south. Bob Sr. has recently completed the drawings for the new addition. Bob Sr. and his wife Agnes live on Old Abbe Road in Sheffield Village.



A portion of Capt. Talcott's survey of 1835 showing the Lake Erie shore in the vicinity of Ruggles Beach and Mitawanga in western Vermilion Township of Erie County, Ohio. The Ruggles Homestead, which is named on Talcott's map (red label added), was the home of Almon Ruggles, the original surveyor of the Firelands section of the Connecticut Western Reserve in 1808. The building on the map marked as the Ackerman Homestead (red label added) has been the home of Robert Bunsey, Jr. since 1980. The Ackerman House does not appear on a map complied in 1814 from field notes of surveyors Maxfield Ludlow and Almon Ruggles (available at the Berlin Heights Historical Society), thus the Ackerman House was likely constructed sometime between 1814 and 1835.



Ohio Boundary No. 111 South Bend of Lake Erie: Map Exhibiting the Position Occupied in the Determination of the Most Southerly Point of the Boundary Line between the United States and Canada. The survey to construct the map was directed by Capt. Andrew Talcott, U.S. Engineers, assisted by Lt. Washington Hood and Lt. Robert E. Lee. Lt. Hood was responsible for drafting the map and Capt. Talcott signed the completed document in the lower right corner.



Robert Bunsey, Sr., at his home on Old Abbe Road, points to architectural drawing of the Ackerman House he prepared for renovation work by his son. The elder Bunsey has kept a detailed log of drawings and photographs made over the past 30 years that documents the monumental restoration work to the house and relentless efforts to control Lake Erie erosion.



View of the beautifully renovated Ackerman House in Mitawanga (Vermilion Township) showing the stabilized Lake Erie bluff and sandy beach. In the 1840s the Ackerman family owned about 100 acres of land including an orchard located north of the house that has since been lost to shore erosion. The family was associated with the old German church at the foot of Frailey Road, just east of the homestead.

The story of Lt. Robert E. Lee's experience on Lake Erie has another fascinating aspect—the killing of the Pelee Island Lighthouse keeper. Capt. Talcott and his surveying party arrived



Turtle Island Lighthouse as it appeared in July 1966. Turtle Island believed to have been named in honor of the Miami Indian Chief Little Turtle, a powerful and gifted leader of his people in the late 1700s and early 1800s. After first opposing the United States, in his later years he befriended the new nation and was buried with full military honors by the U.S. Army at Fort Wayne, Indiana in July 1812. The boundary line between Ohio and Michigan passes through Turtle Island.

at Buffalo on June 7, 1835, hired a boat, and obtained camping supplies for the mapping task. By July 8<sup>th</sup> they had set up camp at Huron, the site of the southerly most point of Lake Erie. In two weeks the work there was completed and the party moved on to across the lake, setting up an observation on Gull Island, just north of Kelleys Island. Today this island is submerged and is now referred to as Gull Island Shoal.



Map of Pelee Island, Ontario showing the location of the Pelee Island Lighthouse.

Next the party continued north to Point Pelee to record another set of latitude and longitude measurements. From there, Lieutenants Hood and Lee hired a cutter to take them to Pelee Island to take additional observations. By the end of July, the survey party had arrived at Turtle Island in Maumee Bay, about five miles from the mouth of the Maumee River at Toledo. The work there continued for several weeks and by August 21, 1835 the surveyors arrived at Michigan City, Indiana, the southerly most point of Lake Michigan. The original definition of the boundary between Ohio and Michigan was set in the Northwest Ordinance as a line heading directly east from the southern edge of Lake Michigan to the most northerly cape of Maumee Bay, then northeast through Turtle Island to the International Border with Canada.

While Lt. Lee was on Pelee Island, the infamous incident occurred. A prime location for one of the survey stations was the tower of Pelee Island Lighthouse located on the northeastern point of the island. The lighthouse, the oldest stone lighthouse on Lake Erie, was built in 1833 to guide vessels through the dangerous Pelee passage, a 20-mile channel that runs between Pelee Island and the Canadian mainland.

In attempting to gain access to the lighthouse tower Lee and Hood found the door barred, they managed to squeeze through a window. Once inside they encountered the keeper at the door. Apparently Lee had an altercation with the keeper that ended in the keeper's death. Ever since great mystery has surrounded the killing. Whether the keeper was unfriendly or if Lee provoked him is unclear, but rumors that Lee killed the keeper have persisted over the years. Whether Lee was cleared of any charges or simply left the island before he could be charged is unknown. However local records indicate that Lee stole a glass lamp shade before leaving.

In 1977 one of Lee's letters written on Tuttle Island in Maumee Bay (July 31, 1835) surfaced that sheds some light on the mystery. Writing to his friend Lt. George Washington Cullum, 28-year-old Lee described his mission on Lake Erie in a bantering tone. Lee describes the island as "Our present abode may have many beauties, but to me they are yet undiscovered. The country around savors marvelously of bilious fevers and seems to be productive of nothing more plentifully than mosquitoes and snakes."

The survey party was most likely housed in the modest residence of the Turtle Island Lighthouse keeper, Oliver Whitmore. The 6.5-acre island was purchased for \$300 in 1831 for the purpose of constructing the lighthouse to guide navigation to the fledgling Port of Toledo.

Lee goes on to describe the incident at the Pelee Island Lighthouse. "Tell the Genl. [Brigadier General Charles Gratiot] that in my last communication I forgot to confess an act of indiscretion which I now beg to leave through you. While at Pt. Pelee, Hood and myself were sent over to Pelee Island to make a survey



Pelee Island Lighthouse (1987).



Sketch of the original 1830s Pelee Island Lighthouse tower (Ronald Suchiu).

of the point on which the Light House stands. It was very necessary to ascend to the top to discern our station at Pt. Pelee. The door was locked and we could not gain admittance, but after some time succeeded in getting through a window in the rear when we discovered the keeper at the door. We were warm and excited, he irascible and full of venom. An altercation ensued which resulted in his death. We gained the top, attended out objective, and descending I discovered some glass lamp shades, which we stood much in need of as all, ours were broken. I therefore made bold to borrow two of his Majesty, for which liberty, as well as for that previously taken [killing of the keeper], I hope he will make our Apology to his Minister at Washington. We have nothing to offer in our behalf, but necessity and as we found the Light House in a most neglected condition and shockingly dirty, and were told by the Captain of the Cutter that there had been no light for more than a year, I hope it will not be considered that we have lopped from the Government a useful member, but on the contrary-to have done a service, as the situation may now be more efficiently filled and we would advise the new minister to make a choice of a better Subject than a dammed Canadian Snake."

It appeared quite obvious from Lee's light-hearted treatment of the incident that the "keeper" was indeed a reptile that he dispatched with his cutlass. Most likely the meanly-disposed keeper was a Timber Rattlesnake, a species present in on the Lake Erie islands until the 1950s. Other candidates include the ill-tempered Lake Erie Water Snake and the non-venomous Eastern Fox Snake that resembles and mimics the tail movement of a rattlesnake.



Eastern fox snake (Elapha vulpina gloydi), the likely keeper of the Pelee Island Lighthouse.

# Black Hawk War (1832-1837)

In 1832, the United States Army conducted a campaign against the Sauk Indians lead by Chief Black Hawk in valley of the upper Mississippi River. Black Hawk was attempting to keep possession of Sauk and Fox Indian lands in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin rather than accept resettlement in Iowa. For over a hundred years these tribes had planted corn on the eastern side of the valley, but in 1829, 1830, and 1831 they were driven back across the river by volunteers called out by the Illinois governor. In 1832 Chief Black Hawk, believing that other tribes would join the struggle for their lands, defiantly crossed the Mississippi River. In a surprise attack, the Indians won an initial victory over the whites. Unfortunately for Black Hawk, aid from other tribes never materialized. President Andrew Jackson and Secretary of War Lewis Cass ordered General Winfield Scott to the scene with soldiers from the east. Scott chartered four ships to transport his 950 troops from Buffalo to Chicago, among them the steamers Henry Clay and Sheldon Thompson. The Henry Clay was built in Buffalo (1826) and the Sheldon Thompson in Huron, Ohio (1830) by an association of Great Lakes merchants, including Capt. Aaron Root of Sheffield. The Henry Clay was jammed with three companies of artillery and two companies of infantry under Colonel Twiggs, while General Scott, his staff, and 220 troops were aboard the Sheldon Thompson as the vessels steamed out of Buffalo harbor to cross Lake Erie in early July 1832. Unseen, an enemy far more potent than Black Hawk's warriors had also come aboard the ships-Asiatic cholera. As the vessels steamed toward Detroit the epidemic struck and spread throughout the ships. Aboard the Henry Clay nearly every man of the 400 was stricken. At Detroit many jumped overboard and ran into the woods where most died, but not before spreading the disease south into Ohio, where as far away as Sandusky the neatly kept Cholera Cemetery still commemorates her lost citizens. By the end of the voyage only 150 men survived the epidemic onboard the Henry Clay. By the time the Sheldon Thompson crossed Lake Huron, 88 men had died and their corpses were weighted and thrown overboard. When the ship finally dropped anchor at Chicago, 16 more bodies were committed to the deep. In the clear



Sandusky Platter depicting the side-wheel steamer Henry Clay in Sandusky Bay, circa 1835. This vessel was responsible for the spread of cholera during the Black Hawk War (Milan Historical Society).

Lake Michigan waters the bodies were so visible that Capt. Augustus Walker was obliged to change his anchorage to save the crew from the anguish of such a sight.

Back at the battlefield, Black Hawk's supplies were eventually exhausted and once the U.S. Army arrived the Indians were forced to retreat to the north. In the final battle, at the Bad Axe River in Wisconsin, nearly 1,000 Indiansincluding women and children-were slaughtered by artillery mounted on the steamboat Warrior. Black Hawk put on a white deerskin and surrendered. The brutality of the Black Hawk War broke the will of many Indians to resist white encroachment and by 1837 most of the tribes fled the Northwest Territory for lands to the west, thus abandoning their homelands to white settlers.

# Mexican War (1846-1848)

War between United States and Mexico sparked by border disputes and the U.S. annexation of Texas that had won its independence from Mexico in 1836. The war ended with the capture of Mexico City by American invasion forces under the command of General Winfield Scott. Mexico conceded California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and western Colorado to the United States in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Shortly after the



Grave marker for Mexican War veteran, Isaac J. Smith, in Garfield Cemetery. Isaac was the grandson of Capt. Joshua Smith who fought in the War of 1812.

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defeat of Mexico, gold was discovered in California and the "Gold Rush" was on. Several sons of Sheffield pioneers ventured overland as "Forty-niners" to seek their fortune in the gold fields. Jabez Lyman Burrell worked at mining for several years and eventually brought his family west where they established a homestead in the Santa Rosa Mountains. Henry Garfield sent gold back to his father in Sheffield, but remained in California for 20 years, only returning to Ohio when the Transcontinental Railroad was completed. Back in Ohio he commented, "A journey west that once took me six months to accomplish, now just took me only six days to return east." Thomas Cox and Isaac Smith from Sheffield served in the Mexican conflict; both are buried in Garfield Cemetery.

### American Civil War (1861-1865)

Civil war between the northern (Union) and southern (Confederacy) sections of the United States over the complex issues of states' rights and Negro slavery, brought to a head by the attempt of 11 southern states to secede from the United States and form the Confederate States of America. The victory by Union forces preserved the nation, but at terrible cost of human lives. Total war losses have been estimated at 618,000 dead (Union 360,000 and Confederacy 258,000).



George F. Smith (1833-1910), one of Sheffield's Civil War Heroes.

Sheffield's Garfield and St. Teresa Cemeteries contain burials of 26 known veterans of the Civil War. Two Sheffield veterans, George Smith (1833-1910) and Isaac Taft (1838-1926), served the Union for the entire conflict; both in the Army and later in the Navy. They both participated in the battle of Mobile Bay, George aboard an iron clad monitor (*Winnebago*) and Isaac on a man-of-war (*Chickasaw*). They saw service with the Mississippi Squadron and at the end of the war they were discharged at New Orleans. George's future brother-in-law, Edward Root, saw service as a sergeant with the Indiana Volunteer Infantry. After the war, Edward married Julia Garfield and they made their home in the Milton Garfield House on North Ridge. Edward was the son of Capt. Aaron Root, who is credited with carrying runaway slaves to freedom in Canada on his ships.



Civil War veteran Edward Root was born in Sheffield, served with the Indiana Volunteer Infantry (Company I of 87<sup>th</sup> Regiment), and is buried in Garfield Cemetery. His wife was Julia Garfield, daughter of Sheffield pioneer Milton Garfield.



Frederic Oliver Day, born in the old Day house in Sheffield Center, served throughout the Civil War with the Illinois Light Infantry. He was an expert gunner and won high praise for his marksmanship.



George Smith served with the U.S. Navy during the Civil War, participating in the Battle of Mobile Bay aboard the ironclad Winnebago, a vessel of similar design to the Mississippi Squadron Lafayette, illustrated above (Meredith Williams).

Civil War Army and Navy Hero—George F. Smith. George F. Smith (1833-1910) was a remarkable man in that he served in the Union forces during the entire Civil War (1861-1865), first in the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and later in the United States Navy. He is believed to have been born in Avon Lake, Ohio in 1833 and in the late 1850s married Eliza Paulina Garfield (1826-1897), the eldest daughter of Milton Garfield. Milton was one of the original settlers of Sheffield and the first to build his homestead on North Ridge. Paulina, as she preferred to be called, was born in a log house on Milton's 200-acre farm 13 years before he completed the grand Greek-Revival house that still stands on the Ridge. Paulina's younger brother, Daniel Garfield (1833-1911), married Mary Taft (1840-1871) and farmed on North Ridge. Mary's bother, Isaac Horace Taft (~1838-1926), also served in the United States Army and Navy during the Civil War. Both George Smith and Isaac Taft served aboard the Monitor fleet vessels during the Battle of Mobile Bay in the final year of the war. They had a chance meeting alongside a coal supply transport vessel in Mobile Bay in March 1865. The following letter, written to Paulina's elder brother Halsey Garfield (1823-1900), has survived and describes some of the battle action and the chance meeting. Both of these Civil War heroes are buried in Garfield Cemetery.

*The Battle of Mobile Bay.* During the Civil War, Mobile was an important port for the Confederacy. Despite a Federal blockade begun in 1861, trade with the West Indies and Europe was kept up with by a line of swift ships. In 1864 Admiral Farragut entered the Mobile Bay channel, captured the Confederate ironclad ram, *Tennessee*, destroying a gunboat and driving another aground, only losing the monitor *Tecumseh*. Fort Gaines, on Dauphin Island at the west entrance to Mobile Bay, surrendered on August 7<sup>th</sup> and Fort Morgan, at the east entrance to the Bay capitulated on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. In the late winter of 1865 the Union's monitor fleet left Port Morgan and entered Mobile Bay with the objective of taking the City of Mobile. General E. R. S. Canby laid siege to Fort Blakely and Spanish Fort on the east side of the Bay. After 25 days, the forts, and then Mobile City, were evacuated allowing Union forces to enter the city on April 12, 1865.



Fort Morgan at the entrance to Mobile Bay, where the Union Fleet assembled for the battle to take Mobile, Alabama (photograph taken in April 2005 a few months before Hurricane Katrina).



Monitor-class gunboat used in the Battle of Mobile Bay (Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, Hyde Park, NY).



Paulina [Garfield] Smith (1826-1897), George's wife who lived on North Ridge during the Civil War.



Halsey Garfield (1823-1900), Paulina's older brother, to whom the letter from Mobile Bay was written.



Gravestone of Isaac H. Taft (~1838-1926), in Garfield Cemetery.

#### CHAPTER 8. MILITARY HISTORY

### George F. Smith's Civil War Letter

Sheffield Halsey Garfield On Board of U.S.S. Winnebago Mobile Bay, March 20th 1865 Brother Halsey [brother-in-law]

As it has been some time since I have written, or heard from you, I concluded today to sit down and write you a few lines. Not because I have any startling news to tell you, although the prospects now look pretty fair for something to be done.

The whole fleet of Monitors got under weigh from Fort Morgan nearly a week ago, and came up the Bay. The second day came up we were in action most all day, sitencing an earthwork and shelling the woods, about 6 miles below the city and since then have been most of the time in a line of Battle covering the landing of troops. The fires of our advanced brigades shows me that they are getting pretty well up, and I think the time for a general attack is not far distant. We are now having the most becautiful of summer weather. I have not seen a flake of snow this winter, and ice more than three or four times. My health has never been better than now. I received a letter from Paulina [George's wife and Halsey's sister] by last mail. She was in her usual health.

Yesterday morning we got under weigh and went alongside of the Transport Arkansas for coal. The Chiekasaw was alongside at the same time. I had a chance to see Isaac Taft [Isaac Horace Taft, died 1926 and was buried in Garfield Cemetery, Sheffield Village]. He was healthy. He told me Dan [Daniel Garfield, Paulina's brother and husband of Mary Taft who was a sister to Isaac Taft] sold out. Mhere has he gone? And what is Gray doing now? I never have heard whether you had moved into your place or not, although I suppose you are at the Creek [French Creek in Avon, Ohio] yet.

Nell as I have no news to write at present, I will close. But I hope to date my next from Mebile City [Union forces entered Mobile City on April 12, 1865 and the final surrender of the Confederate Army took place in Shreveport, Louisiana on May 26, 1865]. Please give my respect to all enquiring friends, and accept love and best wishes. Be ever Yours IC [In Christ?]

George F. Smith Write soon.



Lenza Minard served with Company C of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and later with Company I of the 176<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. Lenza is buried in Garfield Cemetery, across the road from his home on North Ridge. After the war Lenza Minard joined the Avon (Harrison) Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Some of his Civil War metals and ribbons are displayed.



Avon, Ohio GAR Post. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization in the United States. Membership was open to soldiers and sailors who served credibly in the American Civil War. In 1894, when this photograph was taken, the GAR had 400,000 members. Lenza Minard, who lived in the Douglas Smith house in Sheffield Township at that time, is the ninth veteran from the left—the man standing in the first row with the dark beard immediately to the left of the American flag. During the Civil War, Lenza served with Company C of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiment and Company I of the 176<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. On the bluffs of Lake Erie, at the northeast corner of the City of Sheffield Lake, exists one of the oldest yet least publicized historical sites in Lorain County, an active organization which was founded by veterans of the Civil War and is still carried on by their descendants. At the end of the Civil War, a group of men who had served in 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment decided to build a place to hold reunions during the summer to renew old friendships and enjoy the comradeship of the men who had endured the war years together. Eventually the site in Sheffield Lake was selected and in 1907 four acres of land was acquired. The veterans decided that membership shares in the 103rd O.V.I. Memorial Foundation would only be available to the veterans, their wives and children, and descendants of the children. Soon the veterans began building cottages so that the families could spend more time on the grounds under more comfortable conditions, and eventually a kitchen, mess hall, and dance hall/community building were added, including space for a Regiment Museum. The organization is believed to be unique in the nation. An Ohio Historic Marker, which details the history of the organization, was erected in 1974.

The 103<sup>rd</sup> O.V.I. was recruited for Civil War service from Cuyahoga, Lorain, and Medina Counties. The Regiment was organized at Cleveland, Ohio in August 1862 and served until 1865 in response to President Lincoln's call for 75,000 men. The 103rd Infantry distinguished itself as one of the Union's finest, having served in battles of Blue Springs, Knoxville, Dandridge, and Spring Hill in Tennessee, and Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, and Atlanta in Georgia. The survivors of this historic regiment formed an association in 1866, which has been perpetuated down through the years by their descendants.

Reunions of the veterans were held in Elyria, Cleveland Medina, Wellington, Painesville, Chagrin Falls, Solon, and Chippewa Lake from 1867 to 1878. The next year wives and families were invited to the reunion held in LaGrange and to reunions held at Ridgeville, Olmsted Falls, Bedford, Nottingham, Vermilion, and Brooklyn where tents were pitched for an extended encampment. In 1888 the first of a long series of reunions, until 1907, were held Randall's Grove, a resort



Entrance to 103<sup>rd</sup> O.V.I. Campgrounds, 5501 East Lake Road, Sheffield Lake.



Gazebo near the entrance to Casement Hall houses a Civil War cannon and an Ohio Historical Marker.

in northwestern Sheffield Township. At the 1907 reunion a corporation was formed to acquire a permanent campsite, and the next year property was purchased from the Case Farm on the Lakeshore at the northeastern edge of Sheffield Township, at Stop 71 on the Lake Shore Electric Railway.

Over the years, Casement Hall, named for the regiment's commanding officer—General John S. Casement, a barracks named *Elfordilno* in recognition of the work and donations of veterans Elsasser, Ford, Dillon, and Nodine, a mess hall, shelter house, a pier on the lake, and other amenities have been constructed by the veterans and their families. *Elfordilno* now serves as a regimental museum. Today numerous cottages are located on the campgrounds that serve as dwellings for descendants. Several weekends each year the O.V.I. campgrounds and museum are open to the public for a pancake breakfast.



103<sup>rd</sup> O.V.I. Regimental Drum carried in battle, now on display in the Museum.



Painting of a Civil War fort constructed by the 103<sup>rd</sup> O.V.I. Regiment in Kentucky.



Casement Hall, the main assembly building of the campground.



*Elfordilno, originally a barracks, now serves as the 103<sup>rd</sup> O.V.I. Regimental Museum.* 

# Spanish-American War (1898)

This brief war between United States and Spain was sparked by Spain's harsh treatment of independence fighters in Cuba and by the sinking of the U.S. Navy battleship USS *Maine* in Havana harbor with the loss of 266 sailors. Major battles of the 113-day war included Commodore George Dewey's destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay



A mysterious explosion aboard the 319-foot U.S. Navy battleship Maine in Cuba's Havana harbor ignited the Spanish-American War in 1898 (U.S. Library of Congress).

and the battle for Santiago, Cuba, where the "Rough Riders" commanded by Col. Wood and Lt. Theodore Roosevelt, won distinction. With the United States' defeat of Spanish colonial forces in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands, the United States gained control of these territories and established America as a world power with far-flung overseas possessions. Carl Edmond Day, great grandson of Sheffield founder Capt. John Day and son of Civil War veteran Frederic O. Day, fought in the war with Spain, serving first with the 32<sup>nd</sup> Michigan Infantry and later with the U.S. 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in Cuba. DeForest Monagon of Sheffield is also believed to have served with the U.S. Army during this war; he is buried in Garfield Cemetery.



Military grave marker for DeForest Monagon in Garfield Cemetery. DeForest is believed to have served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War.

### World War I (1914-1918)

Once referred to as the *Great War*, it was then the greatest armed conflict in world history with 28 nations (counting the British Empire as one nation) engaged in the war. The Allies, consisting mainly of France, Belgium, the British Empire, Russia, Serbia, Japan, Italy, and the United States, on one side, and the Central Powers, including Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey, and Bulgaria, on the other side.

The major factors that contributed to World War I were: (1) intense nationalism of European nations and the resultant clash of national interests, (2) the division of Europe into two camps of nations allied against each other, and (3) economic rivalry between these camps. General John J. "Blackjack" Pershing commanded the American Expeditionary Forces. Under him, twelve men now buried in Garfield and St. Teresa Cemeteries served in WW I. Four young men from the Rider family—then living in the Milton Garfield House on North Ridge—Clarence, Frank, Harry, and Walter answered the call. Walter, a U.S. Marine who "overstated" his age to get in the service, was exposed to mustard gas and wounded in France, but recovered to live until 1987.



Marine barracks at Port Royal, South Carolina.



Rider brothers Clarence, Frank, and Harry with their mother Maude on the steps of the Milton Garfield house in Sheffield Village.



World War I marine, Frank A. Rider. At the time he enlisted Frank was living in the Milton Garfield house on North Ridge in Sheffield.



Marine Barracks at Port Royal, South Carolina where Frank Rider received his basic training.



World War I "Welcome Home" Victory Chart depicting the military leaders on both sides and American forces in action (prepared by Private J. J. Quirk, American Expeditionary Forces).





World War I troop trains became common sights as America entered the struggle (Ohio Historical Society).

Monument to World War I soldiers at the Ohio History Center in Columbus, Ohio.

*World War I and Prohibition in Sheffield.* From 1919 to 1933, the United States was legally dry. The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution gave the Federal government power to prohibit "the manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors." The ratification of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment in January 1919 culminated a grass-roots temperance movement that had begun a century earlier.

In the early 1800s many Americans were becoming alarmed with the high rates of crime and disease among immigrant workers in urban slums, attributing much of the problem to alcohol abuse. In 1846 Maine was the first state to pass a prohibition law and by 1855 another 11 states followed suit. In spite of efforts by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League to retain these statutes, most states had rescinded statewide prohibition by the 1890s in favor of local-option laws, permitting communities or counties to vote themselves "wet" or "dry."

The United States entry into World War I provided a convenient new set of arguments for the prohibitionists: (1) because German-Americans dominated the brewing industry, what could be more patriotic than lessening the economic influence of persons whose loyalty was in question? and (2) prohibition would free up large quantities of grain, thus increasing food supply for the armed forces. These arguments, plus the perceived family degradation resulting from excessive drinking by the "bread winner," converted many "wets" to "drys," thus clearing the way for national prohibition under the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Eventually 46 of the 48 states ratified the amendment—Connecticut and Rhode Island never did.

In October 1919, Congress passed the Prohibition Enforcement Act over President Wilson's veto. This act defined "intoxicating liquor" as any beverage containing more than 0.5% alcohol, thereby making even beer and wine illegal. This stipulation had serious ramifications for grape growers and winery owners, forcing them out of business or reducing wine production to only small amounts for medicinal uses and sacramental purposes in churches.

The nation's experiment with Prohibition created serious problems in the American lifestyle. The long coastlines in the East and West, as well as the unguarded frontier with Canada, made it impossible to stop the flow of illegal liquor into the country. With Ontario only 60 miles across Lake Erie, "rumrunning"-the act of bringing prohibited liquor ashore, mainly from Canada-became a lucrative profession in northern Ohio along with "bootlegging"-making, distributing, or selling illegal liquor. Bootlegging became big business controlled by criminal elements in nearby cities like Cleveland, Toledo, and Detroit. Gang wars and other violence became common during the "Roaring Twenties" as gangs branched out into gambling parlors, dance halls, and prostitution houses. By the end of the 1920s they developed the "rackets"-practice of mobsters or "racketeers" collecting "protection" money from businesses by threatening violence if their victims failed to pay.

Prohibition was fairly effective at first, but as time went on it became a disaster. The people themselves were partly to blame for the widespread violation of the law. Many Americans who were otherwise law-abiding citizens refused to take Prohibition seriously. With the inauguration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933, Congress set about to fulfill the administration's promise to the people to legalize beer. Later that year the entire Prohibition Era ended with the adoption of the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment to the Constitution which repealed the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment and returned the power to control the sale of intoxicating drinks to the states. Actually, Prohibition proved to be an unexpected boon to vineyard growers in the Sheffield-Avon area as the demand for grapes increased with the closing of commercial wineries and the advent of "basement" production of wine and beer. Under the federal Prohibition laws, individuals were permitted to make up to 200 gallons of wine for personal use, not to be sold or even given away.

Allan Klingshirn, of Klingshirn Winery on Webber Road in Avon Lake, was just a young boy at the time, but recalls this widespread production of homemade wine. The Nagel family of Avon operated a press at the time that processed much of the local grape production, yielding juice ready to be fermented in barrels at many of the area farms. Although supposedly restricted to family consumption, Allan remembers stories of nighttime deliveries to bootleggers, destined for illegal city markets.

In 1930, the population of the Village of Sheffield Lake, including what are now the Village of Sheffield and the City of Sheffield Lake, was only 1,276, but the police force numbered seven marshals. This relatively large force was necessary to combat the criminal elements that arose during the Prohibition Era. Sheffield Lake Village was proud of its marshal and six deputy marshals, as documented in the following excerpt from the 1931 Brookside High School yearbook, *The Leader*:

"Roy" Clites and his squad are a formidable group. Their presence in appropriate uniform is alone enough to demand respect and order. All are respected and they are all good hard workers. Under the able leadership of "Roy" our marshal, we can all feel safe and know our community is getting the best protection possible. We are thankful and appreciate their effort and good hard work.

By the 1920s the automobile was no longer the exclusive possession of the well-to-do. A survey in 1923 showed that nearly half of the working-class families in a typical Midwestern town owned a car. The automobile increased the difficulty of law enforcement by providing bootleggers with a convenient means of escape, as well as an efficient means to transport illegal liquor.

However, Deputy Marshal Henry G. Root (1885-1971) of Sheffield was fond of telling the story of how he apprehended some local bootleggers. One spring day in the late 1920s a gang was trying to elude the Sheffield marshals who had been tipped off that a shipment of booze was scheduled to pass through the Village. The marshals gave pursuit when the bootlegger's truck came along North Ridge bound for Cleveland. Marshal Root chuckled, "They knew the Village back roads and fields too well, but they didn't consider the spring muck. As soon as they saw us, the truck quickly turned off the ridge and down onto a



Sheffield Lake Village Officials (1930): left to right—Deputy Marshals F. Young and Henry G. Root, Marshal W. L. "Roy" Clites, Clerk Frank Field, Mayor Fred Hosford, and Deputy Marshals A. Welter, A. Gilles, and W. Osborne. Deputy Marshal L. Cheney was appointed soon after photograph was taken.

#### BICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD

familiar farm lane where the gang hoped to hide. As soon as they reached the flats, their truck became mired in the mud."

Barbara [née Wagner] Sheets of East River Road in Sheffield Village relates an incident that took place on the east side of Lorain in the waning years of Prohibition. Barbara's father, Edward Wagner, had a hard time finding work during the



Shirley Garfield's model-T Ford (~1910), one of the first automobiles in Sheffield. Automobiles were instrumental in bringing the Prohibition Era to a close.

Depression. He finally took a job working at the all-night *Hi-Speed* filling station on East Erie Avenue. Late one evening a sinister-looking sedan pulled into the station and four men in black suits and fedora hats got out. They ordered Edward to, "Fill 'er up." They said something about being on their way from Cleveland to Detroit and Edward guessed they must be part of the mob. He did as they ordered. When the time came to pay they abruptly said, "We don't have any money." Edward knew it was pointless to argue with the mob and was resigned to accept the loss—thankful that he was alive to tell the tale. Then a startling thing happened. One of the gangsters said, "Here, take this in payment" as he shoved his gun into Edward's hand. Some 80 years later, Barbara still has that gun.

In the cities, "speakeasies"—illicit liquor stores or nightclubs were commonplace during Prohibition. However, it is doubtful that they were common in small farming villages such as Sheffield or Avon. Yet we did have Avon Isle, a popular dance pavilion built on the banks of French Creek in the early 1920s. Interviews with residents of Avon and Sheffield who attended dances and other events there some 80 years ago reveal its colorful history as a unique meeting place for men and women of diverse cultural backgrounds. Jessie [née Mittelstead] Root, who grew up in Avon during the 1920s, recalls with pleasure the good times that she had there, but emphatically denies that Avon Isle was ever a speakeasy or served illegal alcohol.

It was not until after the end of Prohibition that wineries began to spring up in our area. The first was Avon Lake's Klingshirn Winery in 1935. The following decade Sharick Winery on French Creek Road and Barney Jungbluth Winery on Abbe Road opened in Sheffield. In 1946, Christ Winery on Walker Road in Avon Lake was established. The Sheffield wineries are long gone, but the Avon Lake establishments continue to produce fine local wines.



Barbara [Wagner] Sheets holds the gun the Cleveland mob gave to her father in payment for gasoline.



The Thompson machine gun was the weapon of choice for gangsters and lawmen during the 1920s (courtesy of Ohio Historical Society).



Prohibition exhibit at the Ohio History Center, Columbus, Ohio.



This "still" was used to make bootleg "hootch" during the Prohibition Era. The top bears evidence of having been busted by federal revenue agents. Nationally some 300,000 people were convicted of Prohibition violations (Ohio Historical Society).

### World War II (1941-1945)

In September 1939, Europe was plunged into another great war as German aggression, long anticipated and feared, became a reality with the Nazi invasion of Poland. In December 1941, the war became world-wide in scope with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Eventually 21 allied nations were at war with Germany, Italy, and Japan with some 90% of the world's population engaged in the war. Some call them the "greatest generation"-not only those who served on foreign soil, but those who toiled tirelessly on the home front to support our military forces. The war in Europe ended with the defeat and surrender of Germany in May 1945. Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in August 1945 resulted in the unconditional surrender of the Japanese Empire. Sheffield cemeteries contain the graves of some 53 men and women who served in the United States armed forces during the Second World War, including Serbian resistance fighter Vukomir Alavanja and U.S. Army Veteran Michael Voravich, both interred in St. Mark Cemetery.



Dennison "Denny" Koleno was a member of the invasion force that stormed the beaches of Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. Denny (right) and Henry Bowers of Woodland, Maine, hold a captured "Jap" flag on Iwo Jima.



Staff Sergeant Leroy Conrad, U.S. Army, from Abbe Road in Sheffield served in World War II from 1942-1946 (James Conrad). Leroy is shown here in front of his barracks in Waco, Texas; he "joked" that the cannon to his right kept waking him up.





Mass burial of American service men on Iwo Jima in February 1945.

Dennison "Denny" Koleno served with the U.S. Navy Seabees in the Pacific during World War II. Denny's home was at 846 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake, Ohio.

#### BICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF SHEFFIELD

*General Draza Mihailovic—Serbian Loyalist of World War II.* On a visit to the impressive St. Mark Monastery Church—an American Serbian Eastern Orthodox house of God on Lake Breeze Road—one is likely to encounter a finely sculpted bust of General Draza Mihailovic on a black granite column in the churchyard. To most Americans this Serbian general is unknown, but his is a story of bravery, loyalty, and sacrifice important to the American cause during World War II.

Dragoljub Mihailovic (aka Draza) was born on March 27, 1893 in Ivanjica, Serbia. His military career began fighting the Turks and Bulgarians during the Balkan Wars (1912-1913) and World War I (1914-1918). At the end of World War I the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was abandoned and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was proclaimed. King Peter I served as ruler until his death in 1921. His son, Alexander I, then became king until his assassination by a terrorist in 1934. Alexander's young son, Crown Prince Peter (born 1921) was then proclaimed king under a regency (headed by Prince Paul) until Peter came of age. As regent, Prince Paul signed a pact with the Axis powers (Germany and Italy) in 1941. This action gave rise to a rebellion by freedom-loving Yugoslavians who rejected this partnership. Prince Paul and his Cabinet were forced to flee the capital, Belgrade, as the revolution broke out. The youthful king, Peter II, then became the acknowledged head of the country.

By this time Draza Mihailovic had risen to the rank of colonel in the king's army. In March 1941, Germany invaded Yugoslavia. Despite heroic efforts by Col. Mihailovic and Yugoslav forces to defend their freedom, the army was compelled to surrender to the Nazis in mid-April. However, Draza refused to acquiesce in the capitulation and formed an underground army loyal to the king, known as the Chetniks. Forming a government-in-exile, King Peter II appointed Draza to the rank of general and minister of war. Draza, a royalist, fought mainly in Serbia, while Tito led the communist-dominated Partisans operating in the south. Both the Chetniks and the Partisans resisted the occupying German forces, but political differences led to mistrust and eventually armed conflict. Reports of Chetnik resistance in the early stages of the German occupation buoyed the Allies and made Draza a heroic figure in both America and England.

As the war progressed, brutal German reprisals against the Serbians caused Draza to become more restrained in his resistance, saving his reserves until the Allies could provide more assistance. Tito and the Communism Partisans accused the Chetniks of collaborating with the Axis Italians and this misinformation caused the Allies to switch support to Tito. At the end of the war the Communists, under Tito, came to power in Yugoslavia and Draza went into hiding. He was captured on March 13, 1946 and charged with treason and collaboration with the Germans. The Communists were fearful that Draza's loyalty to the king would jeopardize their grip on the country. A United States commission of inquiry was impaneled to investigate the charges. The commission cleared Draza and those under his immediate command of the charge of any collaboration. The commission also described his military assistance to the Allies and his efforts in rescuing hundreds of downed Allied airmen.

Despite these findings, the Communist Yugoslavian government went ahead with the trial of Draza. Tito denied the presence and testimony of several Allied officers who had worked with Draza or had been rescued by him. In a hasty trial Draza was found guilty and sentenced to death.

On July 17, 1946 he was executed by a firing squad, but not before he made this profound last statement:

I gave my oath that for the King and Country I would give my life. I have fulfilled my oath.

General Draza Mihailovic July 17, 1946

On March 29, 1948, the United States Congress and President Harry S. Truman posthumously awarded General Dragoljub– Draza–Mihailovic with the Legion of Merit. A likeness of this award is proudly carved into the granite column at St. Mark Monastery Church.



Statue of General Dragoljub-Draza-Mihailovic (1893-1946) at St. Mark Church.

Uncle Red: Tribute to a World War II Veteran. Uncle Red really wasn't my uncle at all. The closest he came was being the high school beau of my Aunt LaBerta, my dad's younger sister. Red was my dad's best man and LaBerta was my mom's maid-of-honor in 1938. Yet, in spirit, he was all the great things an uncle should be. His real name was Clyde Cumberland, but his wavy red hair took precedence.

Red lived with his parents in Sheffield Lake through high school at Brookside and moved with them to West 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Lorain soon after graduation. I remember seeing a photograph of their grave with the same date of death carved on the headstone, but I don't recall being told how they died. Anyway Uncle Red, being their only child, inherited the Lorain house.

World War II was approaching and Uncle Red was drafted into the Army, leaving the house vacant. At the time I was about 18 months old and my parents were renting a house from Mr. Cotton, near the railroad tracks on Lake Breeze Road. Red offered the use of his house to my folks if they would take care of it while he was in the service. My dad was earning only about \$20 a week, so the offer was very attractive.

Uncle Red was a tall, goodlooking, affable man who did well in the military. After war was declared he was stationed in the European theater where he rapidly rose through the ranks to Master Sergeant. During the "Battle of the Bulge" officers were being lost at such an alarming rate that Uncle Red was given a Battlefield commission to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He wrapped his hard-won sergeant stripes in a small packet and mailed them home to me. With great pride mom sewed them on my little soldier uniform for my fifth birthday photograph. Growing up during wartime is obvious from my birthday photographs. Each year I sported a different branch of the armed services.

Letters from Uncle Red were always a great treat when they arrived, although there were many black spaces where the censors had cut out some details that may have been helpful to the enemy if they were intercepted. One particular letter even had a map drawn with colored pencils that showed where a battle had taken place.

At home we all tried our best to help with the war effort. My mom took a job at the Lorain Brass Company operating a lathe to make parts for B-29 bombers. My dad continued to work at my Grandpa Herdendorf's Standard Welding Company where much of their work involved repairs and maintenance of vehicles for the National Tube Company, which was engaged in defense manufacturing. My dad even planted a Victory Garden in our backyard and rode a bicycle to work to save gas. We collected used grease and lard, and flattened tin cans to deliver to the local grocery store. Many commodities such as gasoline and sugar were rationed and could only be purchased with special stamps. In school, a quarter a week was collected by the teacher toward the \$18.75 needed to buy a \$25 Defense Bond. My dad, too, was eventually drafted and was bused to the Cleveland Induction Center for his physical. At the military commissary there, he was able to buy us a whole box of Hershey candy bars, something I had not seen before. Fortunately the war ended before he was called up and dad did not have to leave us.

> Uncle Red escaped serious injury and returned home in late 1945. He moved into an upstairs bedroom and converted the small garage into a warehouse food distribution business he planned to operate. He bought a wood panel truck and sold spices and other specialty items to local grocery stores in the Lorain County area. It was great fun for me to ride along with him as we visited small ethnic stores with strange meats and odd-looking produce hanging from the ceilings. They were certainly different than the corner store and local area where my mom shopped.

A few years after Uncle Red's return, my Grandpa Root gave mom and dad an acre of land in Sheffield Village on which to build a house. My family moved into my grandparent's house for a year while my dad built the house—so ended my daily contact with Uncle Red. We continued to visit when he would stop by to see the progress on the house, but slowly we drifted apart.

Clyde Cumberland in his U.S. Army uniform during World War II (1942).

His business eventually failed as large, chain grocery stores moved into the area. Red sold the house, moved to a small apartment, and took a job as a used car salesman.

Years later I would purchase a somewhat-worse-for-wear-1957 Ford station wagon from him in 1963, but I don't think I saw him much after that. Red never married and died alone when he was in his 50s. Somehow he was never able to recapture the glory he earned in the army. As a little boy I never understood this—all I could see in Uncle Red was a war hero—*and he was my uncle*.



Sgt. Clyde "Red" Cumberland (Brookside High School class of 1937), driver of the Jeep, served with the U.S. Army in North Africa and Europe in World War II. During the liberation of France he was awarded a battlefield commission to Lieutenant.



*Red sent his Sergeant's stripes home to his young nephew, Eddie Herdendorf, who proudly wore them on this 5<sup>th</sup> birthday photograph (1944).* 

### Korean War (1950-1953)

Following the Second World War, United Nations' attempts to reunify Korea failed. In June 1950, North Korea launched

a surprise invasion of South Korea. After the fall of Seoul, President Harry Truman ordered the use of U.S. combat forces under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. Chinese Communists entered the war on the side of North Korea as United Nations forces drove the North Koreans toward the Yalu River,



Dale Hammer of Sheffield, who served with the U.S. Army 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, U.S. Army 15<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company quartermaster corps in Korea.



Dale Hammer's gravestone in the Garfield Family Plot of Garfield Cemetery on North Ridge in Sheffield Village.

which separates Korea from Manchuria (China). In 1952, Peace talks were held at Panmunjon, but the 50,000 Communist POWs that refused repatriation became a central issue. An armistice was signed in July 1953 with the boundary dividing the two Koreas drawn along battle lines near the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel. The war resulted in the loss of an estimated 3,000,000 lives: 1,300,000 South Koreans (many of whom were civilians); 1,000,000 Chinese; 500,000 North Koreans; and about 54,000 Americans with smaller numbers of British, Australian, and Turkish casualties on the allied side. The cemeteries in Sheffield Village contain the graves of several United States veterans who fought in this war.

### Vietnam War (1959-1975)

Like Korea, Vietnam was divided into North and South segments following the Second World War. As early as 1957, North Vietnamese guerrillas began disrupting the South with the first U.S. military advisors being killed by Vietcong attacks in July 1959. President John F. Kennedy increased noncombatant military advisors to 12,000 in 1962. In August 1964 a North Vietnamese patrol boat attacked a U.S. Navy destroyer in the Gulf of Tonkin, which caused the U.S. Congress to pass a resolution authorizing President Lyndon Johnson to initiate a troop buildup in Vietnam. In 1965 the United States began a massive bombing campaign of the North and first ground combat troops were deployed (3,500 Marines). By the end of 1966, U.S. troops in Vietnam numbered 389,000 and by 1969 they reached the highest level of the war at 543,000. Bowing to antiwar sentiment, newly elected President Richard M. Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces to begin in July 1969 and by the end of 1971 only 158,000 U.S. troops remained. That number dropped to 24,200 by the end of 1972. U.S. Security Advisor Henry Kissinger initiated secret negotiations with North Vietnam in 1971 that resulted in a cease-fire agreement in 1973 and tentative agreement on a peace plan. In March 1973 the last U.S. combat troops were withdrawn and in April the North released the last U.S. prisoners. However, the North and South resumed fighting in March 1974 and in January 1975 the North Vietnamese began their final offensive on the South. The last American civilians are evacuated on April 29,



Military grave marker in St. Teresa Cemetery for Samuel V. Del Boccio, U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam.

1975 and South Vietnam surrendered to the Communists on April 30. About 47,000 Americans were killed in action out of some 1,500,000 total casualties. Desmond Mislinski, buried in Garfield Cemetery, and Samuel V. Del Boccio, buried in St. Teresa Cemetery, fought in this war.

### Gulf War (1991)

In August 1990, the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of neighboring Kuwait, which triggered a United Statesled buildup of forces to defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait. In a 6-week campaign in January and February 1991, some 450,000 U.S. troops under the command of General Norman Schwarzkopf won a decisive military victory over Iraqi forces. Under the name of Operation Desert Storm, U.S. troops routed Iraqi armed forces that totaled 1,000,000 personnel. The Iraqi troops included 350,000 who were occupying Kuwait, of whom and estimated 100,000 were killed and 65,000 captured. Allied losses were extraordinarily low, less than 300 dead or missing. On paper the Iraqi forces were formidable, the 5<sup>th</sup> largest army in the world with 950,000 soldiers and an air force with 40,000 personnel and 689 combat aircraft. Advanced technology and well-coordinated offensive tactics on the side of the U.S. forces were the deciding factors in the allied victory. Today, following the 9/11 terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda, American forces are deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq in an attempt to destroy this enemy.

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# SHEFFIELD MILITARY HONOR ROLL

NAME     LIFE DATIES     BRANCH     CONFLICT     RANK     UNT/NOTE     CEMETER       Adarms, Nachard     1915-1962     US Army     Kvera     Stress     Stress       Alavanja, Valcomir     1917-2008     Alle Forces     Will     PYT     Gaffeld       Avery, Samuel Edward     1908-1934     US Army     Kvera     1st Licutent     Gaffeld       Beacel, Gorge W.     1926-1934     US Army     Kvera     Ist Licutent     Gaffeld       Beacel, Anke     1915-1945     US Army     Kvera     Ist Licutent     Gaffeld       Beacel, Anke     1935-1966     US Army     Will Korea     Stress     Stress       Bootsch, John Betrum     1839-1976     US Army     Will Korea     Stress     Stress       Bornstien, Harry     1923     US Army     Will Master Seguant     Stress     Stress       Brandson, Lenny     1837-1914     US Army     Kvera     Karfeld     Gaffeld       Burrell, Jake     1846.1827     US Army     Kvera     Gaffeld       Buranel, Kenneth P     1901-1976	<u>+++</u>	<u></u> .	<u></u>	بد بد بد بد	****
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Kingsboro, Howard Franklin 1919-2004 US Army WW II PVT Garfield			2		
Guilled Contract Contract Contract Contract Contract	0	1809-1889	US Army	Civil War	Garfield
Kostohryz, Albert H. 1923-1976 US Army WW II Sergeant St Teresa			•		Sergeant St Teresa
Laskin, Jay John 1924-1956 US Marine Corps WW II PFC Ohio St Teresa	Laskin, Jay John	1924-1956	1		PFC Ohio St Teresa
Lewis, William 1782-1847 US Army War of 1812 Garfield	Lewis, William	1782-1847	•		
Livingston, Lee L. 1875-1952 US Navy WW II Veteran St Teresa	6	1875-1952			
Mack, Charles 1918-1993 US Army WW II Veteran St Teresa			•		
Mackert, Lester 1923-2006 US Army WW II PFC St Teresa	Mackert, Lester	1923-2006	US Army	WW II	PFC St Teresa

NAME LI	FE DATE	S BRANCH	CONFLICT	* * * * RANK	$\star \star $	EMETERY
Maddox, John	1840-1865	US Army	Civil War	Ohio Li	ght Artillery, 15 <sup>th</sup> Indpt Btry	Garfield
Mahar, Mark L.	1846-1921	US Army	Civil War			Garfield
Mazur, Charles S.	1913-1980	US Navy	WW II			Garfield
McAllister, Kenneth J.	1911-1958	US Army (?)	WW II	Veteran		St Teresa
McCallie, Edward Duffie	1926-1965	US Navy	WW II		Ohio FI, US Navy Reserve	Garfield
McCowen, Alan Clyde	1884-1953	US Army	WW I	PVT	Field Signal Bn, PA NG, Co B1	St Teresa
McKitrick, Albert L.	1937-2009	US Air Force	Korea	Veteran		St Teresa
McManners, John Melbar, John Peter	1758-1845		ny, Revolutionary WW I	war FL	Lt P. Jackson Co, Col Chandler Reg Di Ohio	ed in Sheffield St Teresa
Mellon, Vernon Eugene	1900-1935 1940-1997	US Navy US Army	VV VV 1	ГL	Ollib	Garfield
Merves, Joshua	1940-1997	US Army	WW II	PEC 21	ARMD INF BN 11 ARMD DIV	Salem
Minard, Lenza M.	1847-1924	US Army	Civil War	110 211	Ohio $52^{nd}$ & 176 <sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry	Garfield
Mislinski, Desmond G.	1946-2000	US Army	Vietnam			Garfield
Moldovan, Aurel	1923-1982	US Navy	WW II	AMM 3		St Teresa
Monagon, DeForest A.	1881-1932	US Army	Spanish-America	ın War?		Garfield
Monagon, James A.	1934-1977	US Army	Korea			Garfield
Monschein, Joseph	1840-1891	US Army	Civil War		Ohio Volunteer Infantry, 8th Reg, Co I	
Nicholas, Joseph Bernard	1922-?	US Army	WW II	Veteran		St Teresa
Owen, Richard Elmer	1911-1956	US Army	WW II	PVT	Ohio 498th Sig Repair Co	Garfield
Petcavage, Felix J.	1919-1983	US Army		Veteran		St Teresa
Price, Catherine Agnes	1924-1991	US Navy		<u> </u>		Garfield
Price, William Morris, Jr.		US Coast Guard/Navy		1 /	Submarine Svc (Pacific)	Garfield
Renner, Karl Mathias Reynolds, Vincent	1896-1965 1844-1910	US Army (?) US Army	WW I Civil War	Veteran	Ohio 7 <sup>th</sup> Volunteer Infantry	St Teresa Garfield
Rida, Yahya Shafiq, M.D.	1917-1980	US Air Force	Korea		Onio / Wolunteer Infantry	Garfield
Rieth, Lawrence A.	1899-1958	US Army (?)	WW I	Veteran		St Teresa
Rogwin, Frank	1915-1945	US Army	WW II	Sergeant		Salem
Root, Edward	1834-1897	US Army	Civil War	Sergeant	Indiana Volunteer Infantry	Garfield
Root, Henry	1830-1908	US Army	Civil War	Seigeune		Garfield
Rumick, William	1917-1959	US Army	WW II	CPL	Arizona SS-BSM-PH & OLC	Garfield
Schlicher, Hobert W.	1921-1970	US Army	WW II	PFC	Ohio	St Teresa
Schmidt, Alexander M.	1902-1956	US Army	WW II	TEC 4	Ohio	St Teresa
Schmidt, Gerald	1933-1997	US Army	Korea	Veteran		St Teresa
Schmidt, John A.	1927-2003	US Army		Veteran		St Teresa
Schmitz, John Francis	1929-1995	US Army	Korea	CPL		St Teresa
Schneider, Charles F.	1889-1963	US Army	WW I	PFC	4 <sup>th</sup> Machine Gun BN, Co A	Garfield
Schremp, John R.	1928-1991	US Army	17	Veteran		St Teresa
Scott, Elmer Eugene	1933-2006	US Army	Korea	Sergeant		Garfield
Sipe, George Robert Sipe, Ruth Violet	1920-1981 1915-1980	US Army US Army	WW II	PVT		Garfield Garfield
Smith, George F.	1913-1980	US Army & Na	vy Civil War	Seeman	OVI, Co H; "Winnebago"	Garfield
Smith, Isaac J.	1825-1854	US Army	Mexican War	Seaman	Ovi, Coli, Winnebago	Garfield
Smith, Joshua	1771-1817	US Army	War of 1812	Captain		Garfield
Smith, William Paul	1894-1960	US Army	WW I	PVT	Ohio	St Teresa
Stanley, Charles J.	1926-2001	US Army	WW II	PFC		St Teresa
Stevenson, Edward N.	1928-1959	US Navy	WW II		<sup>st</sup> CL Ohio US Navy Reserve	St Teresa
Stoltz, Earl Michael	1928-2001	US Army		Veteran	5	St Teresa
Taft, Isaac Horace	1838-1926	US Army & Na		Seaman	Ohio 1st Lt Artillery, Bat I; "Chickasar	
Taylor, John H.	1841-1863	US Army	Civil War		-	Garfield
Taylor, Lewis P.	1811-1894	US Army	Civil War		Ohio 178th Volunteer Infantry, Co D	Garfield
Temkiewicz, Joseph	1918-2004	US Army	WW II	Veteran		St Teresa
Thomas, Walter J.	1918-1989	US Army	WW II	~~~		St Teresa
Thompson, Oliver K.	1923-1987	US Army	WW II	CPL		Garfield
Tucker, Lewis	1919-1945	US Army	WW II	¥7. 4		Salem
Urig, Norman E.	1926-1997	US Army	WW II WW II	Veteran		St Teresa
Voravich, Michael Walter, Wesley Allen	1913-2005	US Army US Navy		MM 3		St Mark Garfield
Walter, Wesley Allen Weibrandt, Harold Leonard	1926-1978 1923-2002	US Navy US Navy	WW II WW II	Veteran		Garfield St Teresa
Wilhelmy, Roy E.	1925-2002	US Army	WW II WW II	PFC		Garfield
Wolf, John	1923-2010	?	WWII?	110		St Teresa
Wood, John Bernard	1923-2010	US Army	WWII	PFC		Garfield
Woodruff, F. H.	1838-1869	US Army	Civil War	Captain		Garfield
Woodruff, Harvey C.	1844-1882	US Army	Civil War	Captain		Garfield
Yochem, John	1830-1884	US Army	Civil War		Ohio 56 <sup>th</sup> Infantry	St Teresa

Over a hundred veterans of the American wars are buried in Sheffield's five cemeteries. The table above lists the known information about these brave men and women who have served their Country.



Captain Aaron Root (1801-1865)—Sheffield's adventurous and heroic mariner.