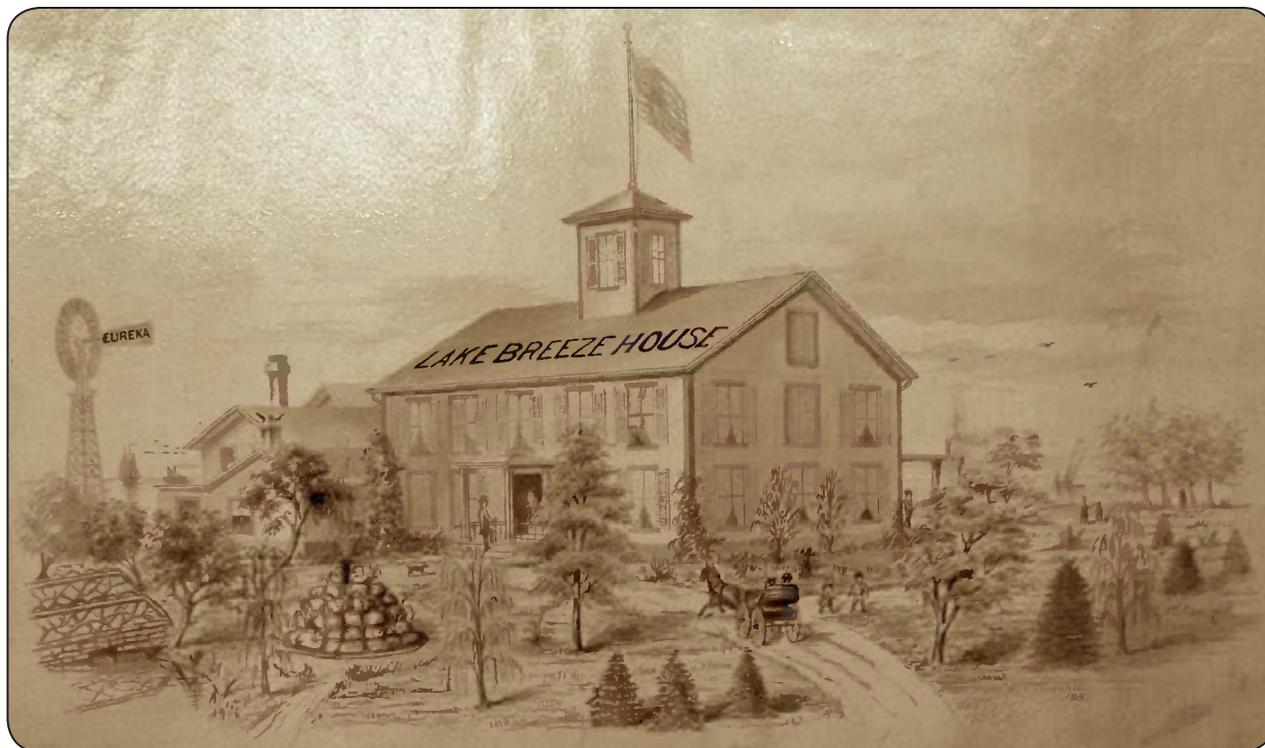


THE VILLAGE PIONEER

Journal of the Sheffield Village Historical Society
& Cultural Center



Lake Breeze House, opened in the 1870s on the lakeshore. This resort hotel, a short distance east of Lake Breeze Road, was first owned and operated by Jay and Etna Terrell. Jay was an avid fossil collector who made important discoveries in the shale cliffs near the resort (courtesy of Drew Penfield).

The History of Lake Breeze Road

Lake Breeze is a 2-mile-long road that runs from the Lake Erie shore south to the bluff of the Black River at Old Colorado Avenue. Along with Abbe, Harris, and Root Roads, it is one of the early roads that the pioneers cut through the wilderness to connect the lakeshore to the river valley and farms located on North Ridge at the southern edge of Sheffield Township.

Lake Breeze Road was laid out from north to south along the intersections of original Township Lots 42, 30, and 61 on the west side and Lots 41, 29, 28, 62, and 64 on the east side (see Lot Nos. on the

1851 Tax Map, page 6). Today, the northern three-quarters-of-a-mile is located in the City of Sheffield Lake and the remaining mile-and-one-quarter in Sheffield Village.

Variouly called the “Elyria–Sheffield Lake Road” or “Sheffield Lake Road,” it was not until the mid 20th century that the name “Lake Breeze Road” was officially adopted. During the 1940s to 1960s Lake Breeze Road, along with East River Road, was designated as Ohio State Route 301 until construction of the Ford Motor Co. plant resulted in Abbe Road being assigned this route number.

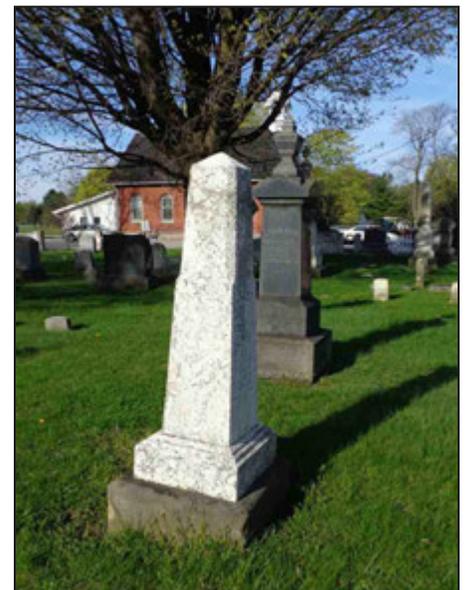
First Settlement

Samuel B. Fitch (1794-1861) appears to be the first pioneer to settle on the land that would eventually carry Lake Breeze Road. Having purchased land in Township 7 of Range 17 of the Connecticut Western Reserve (later to be known as Sheffield Township) from the proprietors, Captains Jabez Burrell and John Day, he arrived from New Marlborough, Massachusetts on November 15, 1815. Together with his traveling companion Asher Chapman, and with Capt. Joshua Smith and Smith’s 17-year-old son Douglas who had arrived in Sheffield two days earlier, they built a rude shanty for the winter on Lot 64. In the spring of 1816 Samuel Fitch settled on Lot 61, at the south end of what is now Lake Breeze Road.

Two years later Fitch married Polly J. Smith (1796-1845), also from his native town of New Marlborough, the 22-year-old daughter of Capt. Smith. Polly died on May 4, 1845 and Samuel later married Nancy Willard (1800-1860) of Pawlett, Vermont, who died on November 4, 1860. Samuel, a prosperous farmer, established the first distillery in Sheffield in 1825. He was a charter member of the Sheffield Congregational Church, founded in 1818. Samuel lived to the age 67, dying on September 15, 1861. He is buried in Garfield Cemetery on North Ridge between his two wives.



Route of Lake Breeze Road, from Lake Erie south to the Black River, passing through the City of Sheffield Lake and the Village of Sheffield. The corridor outlined in red is the subject of this article (courtesy of the Lorain County Engineer, 2012).



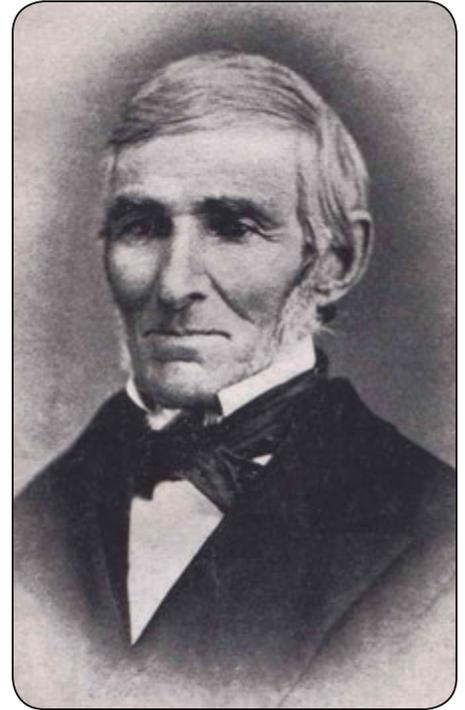
Gravestone of Samuel B. Fitch (1794-1861) in Garfield Cemetery, the first settler on Lake Breeze Road.



Gravestone of Capt. Joshua Smith (1771-1817) in Garfield Cemetery.



Norman Day farm which once occupied the land along Lake Breeze Road at the Lake Erie Shore.



Norman Day was 13 years old when he arrived in Sheffield with his parents, Sheffield founder Capt. John Day and Lydia (Austin) Day, on July 27, 1816 from Sheffield, Massachusetts. Norman was first to chronicle the events of 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 tracks.

Samuel Fitch House

In 1976, as part of Sheffield's contribution to the Nation's Bicentennial Celebration, historian Doris Burrell researched the text for a calendar depicting Sheffield's historic buildings. One of her entries was the Samuel Fitch House. Built in the late 1820s or early 1830s, this was one of the earliest homes in the Township. Located at the foot of Lake Breeze Road at 4014 Old Colorado Avenue, it was constructed of hand-made brick for Samuel B. Fitch. The house and Lot 61, on which it stood, were transferred to Peter Weaver in 1870 for \$6,345. Peter died in 1884 and his estate was divided between his son Mathew Webber and his daughter Mary, who married Jacob Alten. The Altens lived in the Fitch House until 1940. Matt married Jacob Alten's sister, also named Mary, thus making a double cousinship of the two families, several of whose descendants are still living in the area. The house was considerably altered following tornado damage in 1924. The Lorain Parks Metropolitan Park District acquired the property in the 1970s and announced intentions to restore the building as a museum, but unfortunately a fire caused major damage and the house was demolished in 1989.



Samuel Fitch House, on Old Colorado Avenue, located just west of the foot of Lake Breeze Road. Built in the late 1820s or early 1830s and demolished in 1989, it was the home of one of Sheffield's founding pioneers who arrived here in November 1815 (photographed by Steve Toth in 1976).



Monument to Norman Day (1803-1880) in Garfield Cemetery.

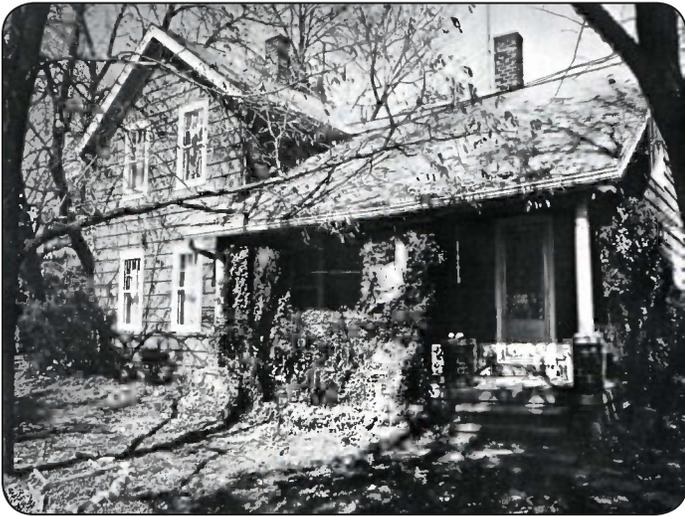
Bedortha-Traxler House

Another historic home near Lake Breeze Road, one that is still standing, is known locally as the Traxler House at 3864 Colorado Avenue. Most likely built by Douglas Smith circa 1830 for the Bedortha family, it is located on Lot 60 and faces what is now called Old Colorado Road. The style of the house is Greek Revival with a two-story front gable and a one-story side wing. This house is the only dwelling in the vicinity of Lake Breeze Road listed on the Ohio Historic Inventory (OHI) that is maintained by the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, although 31 other properties throughout Sheffield Village are listed on the inventory. The official OHI designation of the Bedortha-Traxler House is LOR-161-9.

Luther and Terza Bedortha settled in Sheffield Township in 1824 where they purchased farmland on Lots 60, 62, and 64 at the southern end of Lake Breeze Road. Their family included four

sons—Luther, Hiram, Thomas and Theodore. The elder Luther died in 1825 and the sons continued to work the land until the early 1860s. When Garfield Cemetery was established on North Ridge in 1851, the sons purchased the Luther Bedortha Family Plot and the remains of their parents were removed from the farm and buried in the new cemetery. The younger Luther married Sarah Strong of Sheffield and moved to Iowa for a brief period before returning to Ohio and acquiring a farm in Russia Township. Sarah died in Joliet, Illinois on February 17, 1853 while en route back to Ohio. Luther then married Eliza A. Brown of Oberlin, where he died on December 29, 1864.

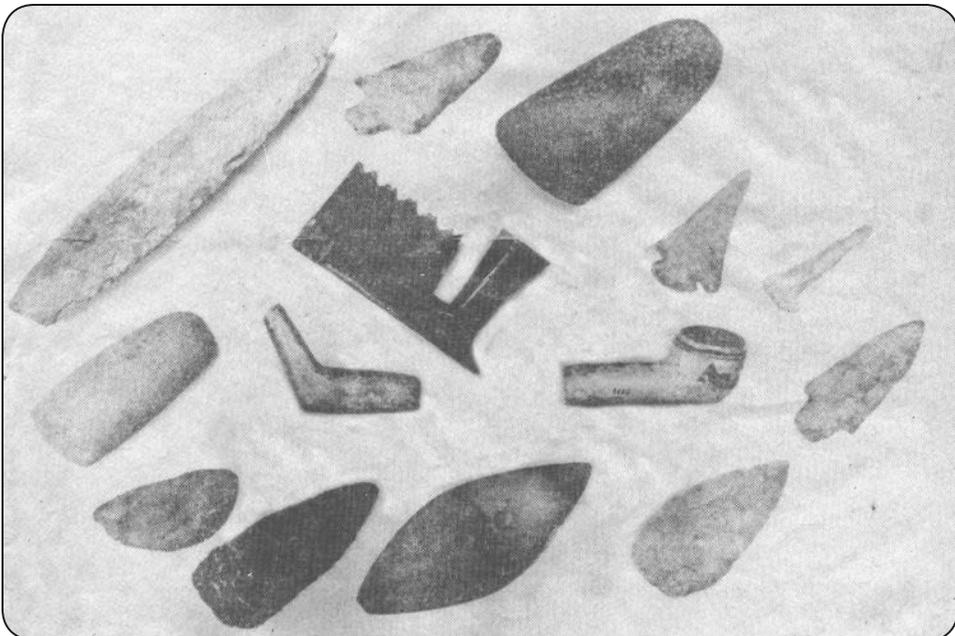
Hiram Bedortha married Lydia Ann Kellogg and they owned and farmed portions of Lots 62 and 64 on the east side of Lake Breeze Road near the Black River. Their son, Hiram Kellogg Bedortha,



Bedortha-Traxler House, facing Old Colorado Avenue to the west of Lake Breeze Road, was built by Douglas Smith in the early 1830s for the Bedortha family (photographed by Steve Toth in 1976).



Bedortha-Traxler House as it appears today. The current owner, Peter Rahotina, is the grandson of Henry Traxler, who acquired the house in 1884.



Indian artifacts found on the Traxler Homestead's "Bluebell Hill," a jutting point of sloping land along the Black River, include projectile points, a stone drill, clay and stone carved pipes, celts, scrapers, and a gorget (courtesy of the Lorain Journal).



Marker for Civil War Veteran, Hiram Kellogg Bedortha (1844-1864) in Garfield Cemetery.

was born there on April 29, 1844. The family lived in Sheffield until 1860 when they bought a farm near Oberlin. In Oberlin, 17-year-old Hiram worked on his father's farm, then followed in the footsteps of his older sister, Abby, by entering the Oberlin Preparatory School.

With the Civil War raging and young Hiram reaching the age to be a soldier, he enlisted in Company E of the 60th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He fought at the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864 and in the trenches at Petersburg, Virginia during the summer of the same year. By early October he was stricken with "camp disease" dysentery and sent to an Army hospital in Beverly, New Jersey. Hiram passed away at the hospital as his mother was en route to see him. His body was brought back to Oberlin where a funeral was held at the home of his parents on October 29, 1864 followed by burial in the Family Plot at Sheffield's Garfield Cemetery.

In about 1860, the Bedortha House was sold to Edward H. Capp and his wife who had recently emigrated from England. The Capp family lived in the house until 1884 when Henry Traxler and his bride Rose (Urig) Traxler bought the property. Their daughter Juanita, and her husband William Rahotina, were next own the house. Along the way, the homestead along with its red barn and fields, came to be known as "Stormy Acres Farm." An October 24, 1976 article in the *Lorain Journal* illustrates the numerous Indian artifacts that have been found on the homestead's "Bluebell Hill," a jutting point of sloping land along the Black River. The accompanying photograph illustrates some Indian tools and other artifacts in the Traxler collection. Juanita, a long-time member of the Historical Society passed away in August 2010. Their son Peter Rahotina and his wife Elaine, charter members of the Historical Society, now make their home in the Traxler House.



Painting of the 1864 Civil War Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia by Kutz & Allison. Young Hiram Kellogg Bedortha fought in this battle and at Petersburg with the Ohio 60th Volunteer Infantry. He died of dysentery, at the time called "camp disease," later that year in a New Jersey Hospital. He is buried in Garfield Cemetery.

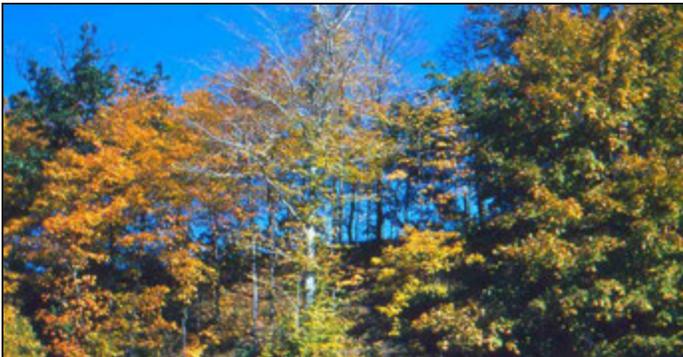
Tax Map for 1851

The earliest known map of Sheffield Township (1851 Tax Map) shows a road where the present Lake Breeze Road exists, but it does not indicate a name for the road. There is some indication that it may have been called Bedorththa Road after the owner of a large parcel of land (Lots 62 and 64) at the southern end of the road. In addition to the Fitch and Bedorththa families, other early pioneers that owned lots on Lake Breeze Road include Norman Day and James Austin.

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE			EAST SIDE		
Name	Lot No.	Acres	Name	Lot No.	Acres
Norman Day	42	117	Joseph W Fitch	41	46
Charles Felch	30	30	Lysander F Parks	29	80
James Austin	30	35	Wm Burlingame	28 & 29	80
H B H	61	40	R Huchins	28	35
Samuel B Fitch	61	120	Edw Karney	28	75
			H Bedorththa	62 & 64	86

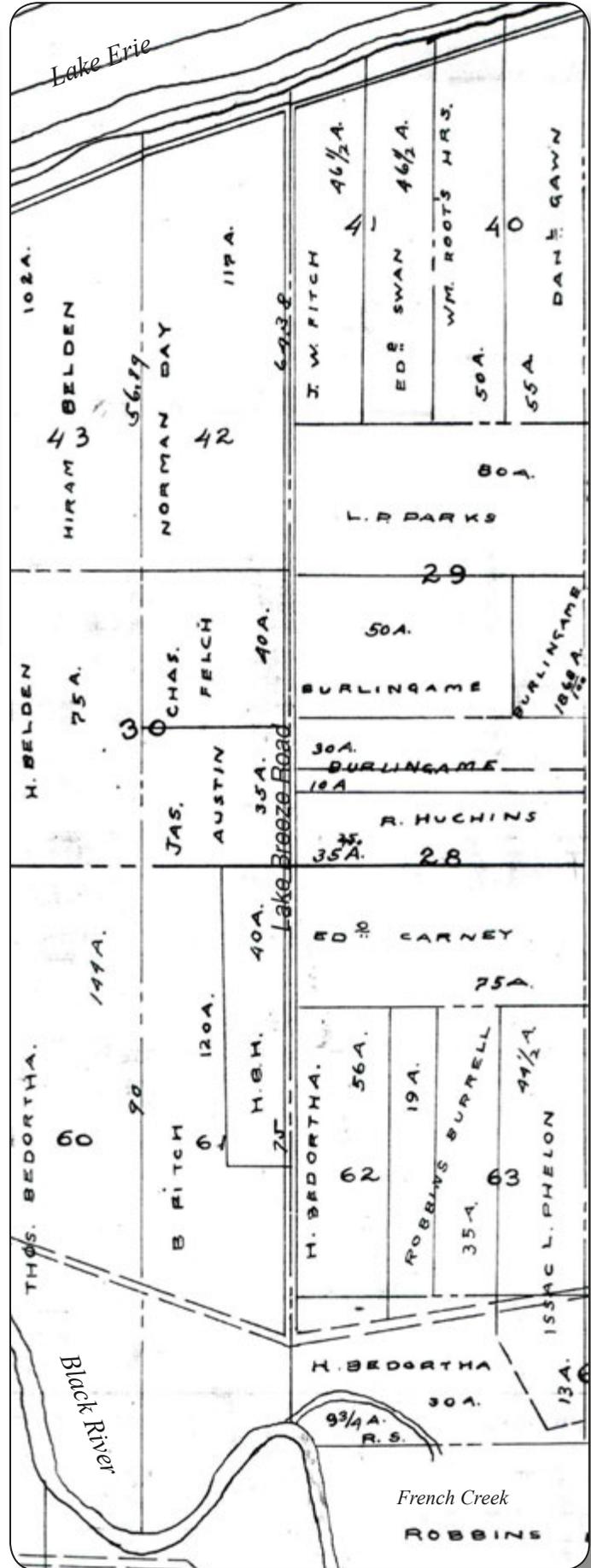
BLACK RIVER



Beech-maple-oak woods on the Black River bluff. When the pioneers first settled Sheffield, the entire township was forested with trees of this type.



Black River rapids a short distance from the foot of Lake Breeze Road.



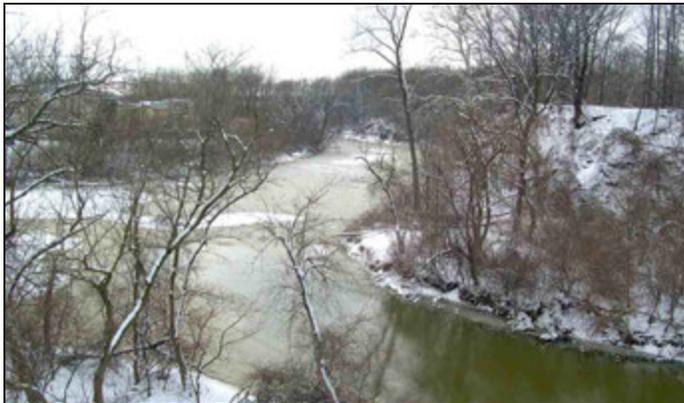
Tax Map for 1857

The Tax Map of 1857 provides the next snapshot of Lake Breeze Road. In addition to the ownership and acreage of each parcel, the map shows the location of dwellings. In the table below, (D) follows the acreage if a home is located on the parcel. The 1857 map also indicates a post office was located on Lot 41 at the lakeshore a short distance east of Lake Breeze Road.

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE			EAST SIDE		
Name	Lot No.	Acres	Name	Lot No.	Acres
Norman Day	42	117 (D)	Joseph W Fitch	41	46 (D)
John Fox	30	40 (D)	Lysander F Parks	29	99 (D)
James Austin	30	35 (D)	Wm Burlingame	28	50
Samuel B Fitch	61	180 (D)	Henry Burlingham	28	76 (D)
			Edw Karney	28	73 (D)
			Friederick Kriebel	62 & 64	94 (D)

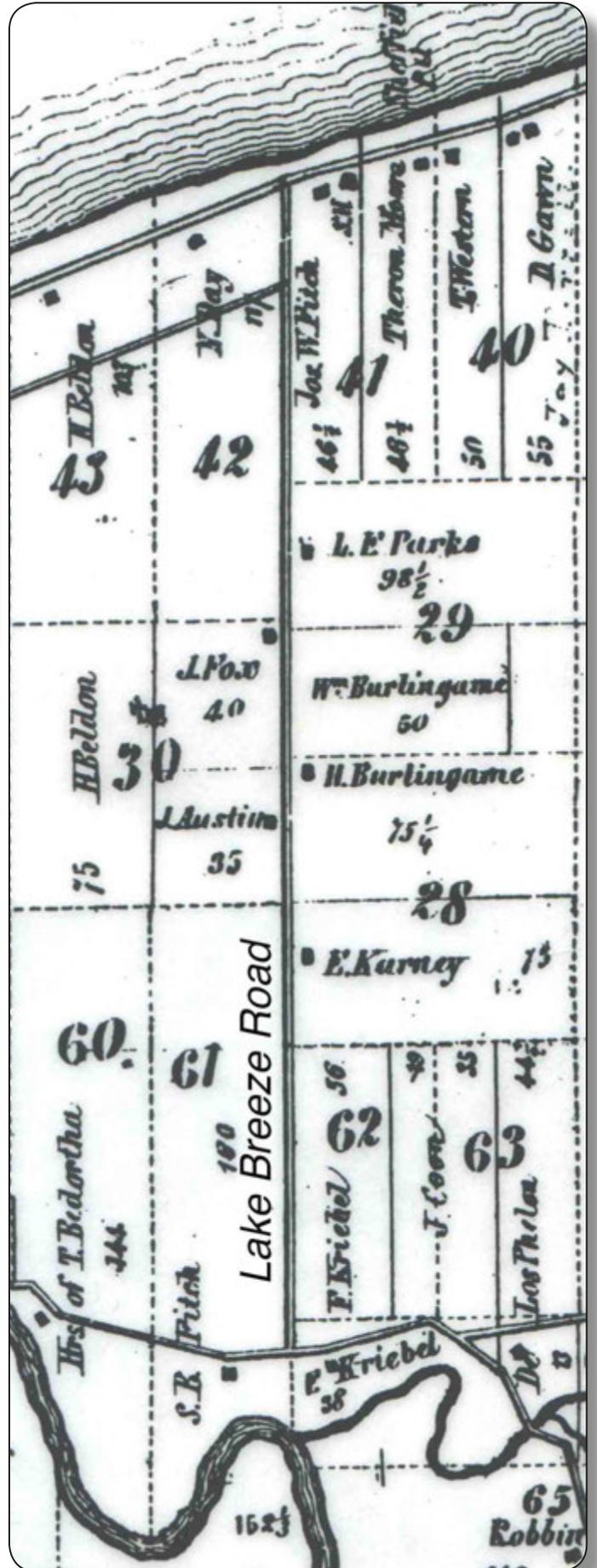
BLACK RIVER



Mouth of French Creek where it flows into the Black River at the foot of Lake Breeze Road.



Bungart Island in the Black River a short distance downstream from the foot of Lake Breeze Road.



John Fox House

The 1857 Tax Map for Sheffield Township shows a dwelling on the property of John Fox at the northeast corner of Lot 30. This wooden-frame farmhouse of Greek Revival Style was likely built soon after John Fox settled at Sheffield in 1846 and had cleared the land. John, born in 1823, was the son of John and Mary Fox of County Roscommon, Ireland where they farmed and reared nine children, two of whom came to Sheffield. The other son to settle in Sheffield was Thomas, born in 1833 and arrived here in 1858. Unlike the 1860s Italianate-style house of Thomas Fox [described later in this article], the John Fox House has typical Greek Revival-style features, including a gable front, wide cornice trim boards, and partial returns of the eaves across the front gable. The elaborate front porch may have been added at a later date. The house is also special in that it still has a slate roof on the main portion of the house. Tax maps indicate that the Fox family owned the property until at least 1915. John Fox died in 1885 and Thomas in 1914; both are buried in St. Teresa Cemetery. Located at 998 Lake Breeze Road, just north of the Norfolk & Southern Railroad tracks, The John Fox House is the oldest house in Sheffield Lake on Lake Breeze Road. The current owners of the house are Michael and Lucia Bellisario.



Gravestone of John Fox (1823-1885) and his wife Ann Fox (1824-1868) in St. Teresa Cemetery.



John Fox House, 998 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake, was built circa 1840s in the Greek Revival Style. John Fox owned and farmed land on both sides of Lake Breeze Road for nearly 40 years. The house is believed to be the oldest homestead still in existence on Lake Breeze Road.

Lysander Parks House

The Tax Maps for 1857 and 1874 indicate a dwelling on the property of Lysander F. Parks (1813-1883) at the northwest corner of original Lot 29. Lysander married Mary E. Knox and they made their home on the 99-acre farm. In 1854 a Sheffield Farmers Club was organized and Lysander was elected treasurer. Lysander was born in 1813 and died in 1883. Mary, born in 1819, survived until 1890. They are buried in Garfield Cemetery on North Ridge under a magnificent monument of fossiliferous limestone carved in the shape of a tree trunk. The 1896 Tax Map shows that William Geminer had acquired the Parks' farm and house. The house is still present on the 1903 USGS Topographic Map, but its final disposition is unknown.



Grave monument for Lysander and Mary Parks in Garfield Cemetery on North Ridge in Sheffield Village. The Parks family homestead was located at the northwest corner of Lot 29, near where present day Brockley Avenue intersects Lake Breeze Road. Their unique gravestone is in the form of a tree trunk carved from fossiliferous limestone.

Burlingame House

The Burlingame House once stood on Lot 28 about mid-way along Lake Breeze Road. The location is indicated on the 1857 Tax Map.

William Burlingame was born in Massachusetts and came to Sheffield Township in 1836 where he farmed and operated a sawmill. He married Melissa Baker and they raised eight children on the farm. Their oldest son, Henry, also operated a farm on Lake Breeze Road before moving to Wisconsin. His brother, Thomas Corwin, was born in 1846, and worked in the milling trade in Sheffield before entering employment with the Cleveland, Lorain & Wheeling Railroad in Lorain. Melissa died in Sheffield in 1865 and William moved to Ashtabula, Ohio in 1872, where he died in 1892. The 1874 *Atlas of Lorain County, Ohio* indicates that John Fox acquired the Burlingame farms and dwelling. The Burlingame dwelling does not appear on the 1896 Tax Map.

Edward Karney House

The 1857 Sheffield Township Tax Map also indicates a dwelling was located on Lot 28 at the 75-acre property of Edward Karney. The accompanying December 1943 photographs of the house indicate that it was constructed in Greek Revival Style, a style that was popular during the period 1825-1860. This style is characterized by a gable front and wing, cornice line emphasized with a wide band of trim, and partial return of the eaves across the front gable. All of these features were found in the Karney House. In tracing the ownership of this house, it appears the next owner

was William H. Field (1874, 1896, and 1912, Tax Maps), followed by Minnie L. Field (1915 and 1938 Tax Maps). In 1943 the house, a frame barn with shed, and five other sheds were sold to Robert F. Sonderman. At the time of the sale a tenant in the house reported that Minnie Field was the owner. The Karney House is located at 1515 Lake Breeze Road and the current owners are Historical Society members James A. and Joyce A. Toth, who have made extensive improvements to the exterior of the house.



Edward Karney House, 1515 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Village, was originally constructed in the Greek Revival Style before 1857. This 1943 photograph illustrates the primary features of this style that was popular for farmhouses during the period 1825-1860, such as a wide cornice board and partial return of the eaves across the gable front (courtesy of James and Joyce Toth).



This recent photograph of the Edward Karney House shows the improvements made by the current owners, James and Joyce Toth. The old wood barn has been replaced with a multiple-bay, concrete-block garage.



This 1943 winter photograph taken of the Edward Karney House and barns is one of the few that shows the condition of Lake Breeze Road in the first half of the 20th century. As State Route 301 it was wide, paved, and maintained free of snow cover (courtesy of James and Joyce Toth).

Atlas of 1874

In 1874 civil engineer D. J. Lake surveyed Sheffield Township with the results being printed in the *Atlas of Lorain County, Ohio*, published by Titus, Simmins & Titus of Philadelphia. In addition to the ownership and acreage of each parcel, the map shows the location of dwellings. In the table below, (D) follows the acreage if a home is located on the parcel. The map indicates that the owners along the northern portion of the road remained constant while those in the southern portion showed more changes. As with the 1857 map, in 1874, nine of the farms along the road had a residence. The post office shown on the 1857 map is no longer shown on the 1874 map, but a school is indicated near the same lakeshore location on Lot 41. Also of interest, a lakeshore resort labeled as the "Lake Breeze Hotel" is shown on Lot 40 about 0.4 of a mile east of Lake Breeze Road. The following table lists the owners in 1874:

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE			EAST SIDE		
Name	Lot No.	Acres	Name	Lot No.	Acres
Norman Day	42	116 (D)	Joseph W. Fitch	41	44 (D)
Bartley Fox	30	21 (D)	Lysander F Parks	29	98 (D)
Thomas Fox	30	66 (D)	John Fox	28 & 29	90 (D)
John W Fitch	61	38	Wm H. Field	28	110 (D)
Peter Weaver	61	127 (D)	Friederick Kriebel	62 & 64	91 (D)

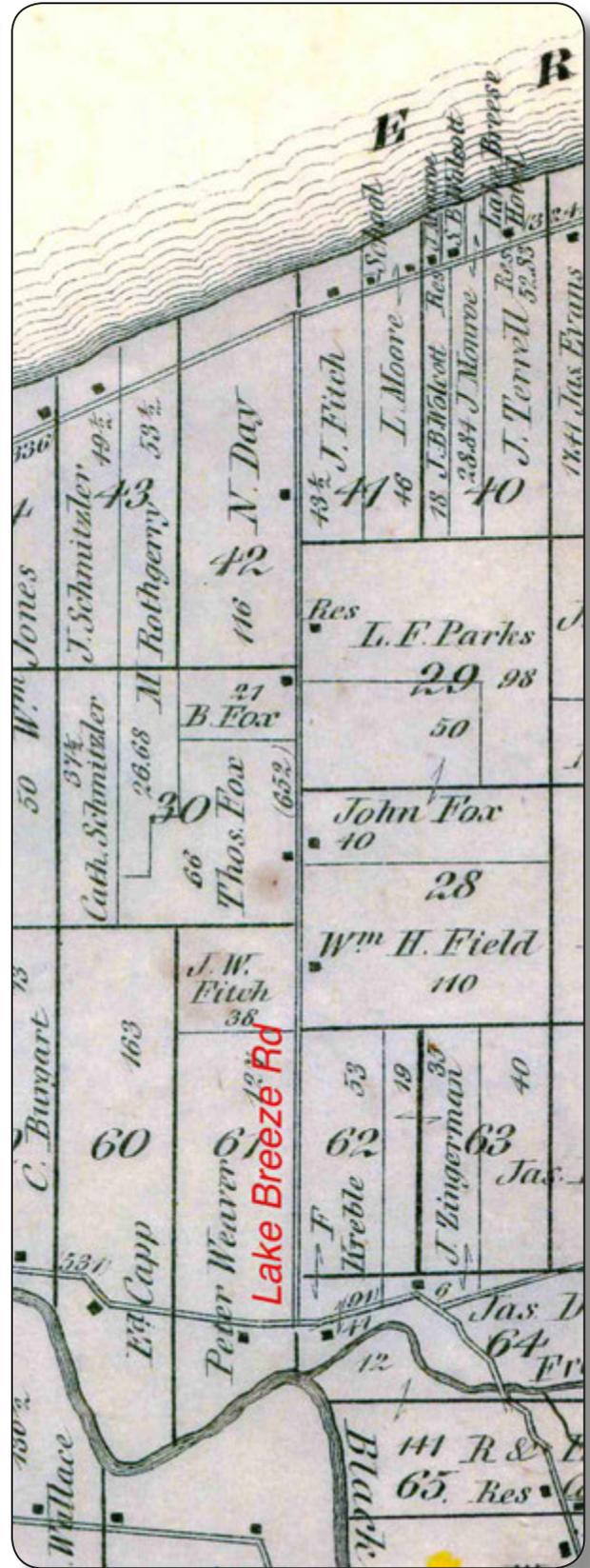
BLACK RIVER

Thomas Fox House

In 1858 Thomas Fox acquired a portion of James Austin's property on Lot 30 and constructed a log cabin for his bride of that same year, Catherine Coughlin. In less than five years he was able to build a two-story frame house that still stands on Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Village. In the 1860s, the architectural preference for Northern Ohio farmhouses was in transition from Greek Revival Style to Italianate



Christine Pratt and her date, Carl Neuber, at the 1957 Brookside High School Senior Prom. Chris' family lived in the Thomas Fox House from 1951 to 1973.



A portion of the Sheffield Township Tax Map of 1874 showing the original lots and the locations of early dwellings and other structures in the Lake Breeze Road corridor. At the lakeshore, the Lake Breeze House is shown on Lot 40 and the Lake Breeze School on Lot 41. The Breeze Post Office was located to the west, just off the map on Lot 44 (courtesy of the Lorain County Historical Society).

Style. Unlike his brother John's Greek Revival farmhouse built in the late 1840s, Thomas's house was Italianate, a style popular during the period 1850-1885. Tall, narrow first floor windows that are typically arched with decorative "eyebrows" characterize this style. These features are illustrated in the accompanying photographs. The house remained in the Fox family for several decades, at least until 1915.

The 1938 County Engineer's map shows Catherine Eiden as owner of the former Thomas Fox property. In 1951 Lester E. and Hazel U. Pratt purchased the house from the Eidens and lived there until 1973. One of the Pratt daughters, now Christine Neuber of Dexter, Missouri, was kind enough to share some of her recollections of life in the Thomas Fox House with the Editor. Christine was 12 years old when her family moved into the house and she graduated from Brookside High School in 1957. Christine writes, "The previous owners were named Eiden. It had been a wheat farm. My parents bought 5 acres that had pear trees on the south side. It had two barns, two cisterns and a sandstone watering trough that had been hewn out of one large block of stone. Both cisterns had hand hewn sandstone covers with a square hole in the center [possibly former grindstones]. One cistern serviced the barns and the other the house. There were cedar hitching posts, also. My sister said there was a natural gas well at the back of the house. I don't remember that, but I do remember that the pipes for gas lights were still in the walls of each room, even though there was a bare light bulb wired into each ceiling. There was a notation written on the wall of an upstairs bedroom, 'It was a cold July—Sunday July 25, 1863.' The three upstairs bedrooms were not prepared then—just plaster and lathe walls."

"There was a large coal burning furnace in the basement that had a register at the foot of the stairs in the dining room. There was a stairway from the kitchen to the basement and one from the outside. The upstairs steps went up between the lower basement and living room. The house had a slate roof when my parents bought it. The walls were plaster with lathe. Our water came from the cistern at the south end of the house; it collected water from the house roof. Many times we had to buy water. When the cistern was nearly dry we went down in it and scrubbed the wall down and cleaned it out good before

we bought water to put in it. There was no bathroom all the years I lived there; just an outhouse and running water in the kitchen. My parents put a hot water heater in." [During the 1940s and 1950s Elmer O'Neil of 4296 East River Road operated a part-time business of delivering water to Sheffield residences. He had an ~800 gallon steel tank that he could mount on his stake-bed truck with a hoist lift. Elmer would drive into South Lorain and stop at the small fire station at the corner of 31st Street and Palm Avenue. He would borrow a spanner wrench from the firemen, hook up a fire hose to a nearby hydrant, use the wrench to open the hydrant, and fill his tank. As a young boy, the Editor had the pleasure of riding along with Elmer on his delivery runs, but never learned what arrangement Elmer had to pay for the water].

Christine sent along some photographs, "These pictures are the only ones I could find. I was the only one with a camera and wasn't interested in taking pictures of a house at that time. Notice the long windows in the living room; the rest of the rooms had smaller windows. You can see the open door to the basement in the picture of the back of the house." The Thomas Fox House is located at 1238 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Village and the current owners are James W. and Edna L. Burress.



Thomas Fox House, 1238 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Village, was constructed in the Italianate Style in the early 1860s. This style was popular for farmhouses in our area during the period 1850-1885. Members of the Fox family owned and farmed the 66-acre farm on Lake Breeze Road until at least 1915.



View of the back side of the Thomas Fox House in the early 1950s with the Pratt family and their new Chevrolet automobile. Note the exterior basement doorway (courtesy of Christine [Pratt] Neuber).



View of the Thomas Fox House in the early 1950s with Hazel Pratt in the front yard. Note the elongated lower windows, characteristic of the Italianate Style of the mid 1800s (courtesy of Christine [Pratt] Neuber).

Lake Breeze House

In 1863 Jay Terrell (1827-1904) and his wife, Etna Elizabeth (Park) Terrell (1807-1880), purchased 55 acres of property on the Lake Erie shore from Daniel Gawn and began to construct a hotel. Jay Terrell was born in Ridgeville Township and his wife in Avon Township. In 1873 they opened the *Lake Breeze House*, Sheffield's first hotel (see cover illustrations). The hotel, situated on Lot 40, was described as "upon the bank of, and overlooking the blue waters of Lake Erie." In connection with the hotel, the proprietors operated a number of cottages and kept pleasure boats for use of guests.

An article in the July 14, 1875 issue of *The Elyria Independent Democrat* described the hotel in this way, "Mr. Jay Terrell's *Lake Breeze House on the Lake Shore*, is fast becoming a favorite summer resort for foreign visitors. He is a man who knows just how to please his guests, and all who visit this delightful retreat are sure to go again. This is one of the pleasantest places on the beach, to pass away a day or a week, and we advise those who have not already visited the *Lake Breeze House* to make a trip there."

Jay and Etna Terrell had seven children, one of whom was noteworthy architect Elah Terrell (1851-1884) who designed several important buildings in Sheffield and other communities in Lorain County, as well as in Columbus, Ohio, where he passed away. Locally, he was the architect for the Italianate-style William Day House (built 1879) on East River Road and the Queen Anne-style Sheffield Village Hall on Detroit Road. It is not known if he assisted his father in the construction of the *Lake Breeze House*, but based on his age it is likely that Elah was involved.

Jay Terrell was an avid fossil collector and scoured the shale banks in the vicinity of the hotel for prehistoric marine life. In the late 1860s he discovered armor plates of an ancient fish in the lake's shale cliffs. The fish lived 375 million years ago in the Devonian Sea that once covered Ohio. He presented the specimens to Dr. John Newberry of the Ohio Geological Survey. In 1874, Dr. Newberry published a monograph on the fossils, naming this new species of fish in the discoverer's honor, *Dinichthys terrelli*. Years later the genus name was changed to *Dunkelosteus*, but the species name remains *terrelli*. This

primitive, armored fish belongs to a group known as placoderms.

As a boy of eight-years-old, Peter Bungart (1876-1949) would tag along with Jay Terrell in search of fossils. Peter was born on a farm not far from the foot of Lake Breeze Road on the Black River.

This experience so impressed Peter that he knew geology was his calling. While working at the Lorain shipyards he made a hobby of collecting fossils and studying

rock formations. He eventually turned his hobby into a profession and was hired as paleontologist in 1923 with the newly formed Cleveland Museum of Natural History. His crowning achievement was the successful reconstruction of the armored head shield of *Dunkelosteus terrelli* from flat specimens of shale—demonstrating that this fish was huge, over 20 feet in length. A full-sized model of the reconstruction is on permanent exhibit in the Sheffield Lake City Hall.



Front view of the *Lake Breeze House*, built in the early 1870s. Built and first operated by Jay Terrell, it soon became a popular lakeside resort for local and foreign visitors (courtesy of Drew Penfield).

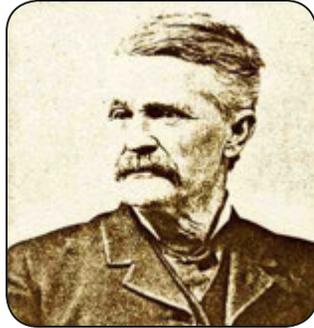


On the 70-acre property at the *Lake Breeze House* resort, Jay Terrell also built a number of cottages for his guests. A large tract of land south of Lake Road was also reserved for game hunting (courtesy of Drew Penfield).

In the early 1880s Lake Breeze House was acquired by Mark Z. Lampman. *The Elyria Republican* carried this note in the June 18, 1885 issue, "We are informed that the season at Lake Breeze House will open on June 20th; on and after which date M. Z. Lampman, proprietor, will be ready to receive his old friends, and make new acquaintances. Lake Breeze is a cool, delightful place; good bathing, boating, fishing and hunting [the property also included nearly 70 acres of undeveloped land south of the lake for hunting], and is becoming justly popular amongst a nice class of summer pleasure seekers."

The Elyria Academy Times of October 11, 1881 reported on a "Class of 1882 Geological Expedition to Lake Breeze." The light-hearted article gives a glimpse of what it was like to visit Lake Breeze House about 130 years ago. "After considerable delay in getting the horses, the load started at 10:30 in a drizzling rain and the sky overcast with clouds, with no signs of clearing up. The boys seemed to have a very great interest in the fruit crop of this season, and in consequence of this freak, the orchards along the way suffered severely. A charming feature of the ride was the numerous hills along the route, especially when the class had to get out and climb them. At last, after a ride of two hours in the rain, the rock seekers arrive, wet and hungry at the Lake Breeze House. Immediately preparations for dinner were commenced. While this was going on, Supt. H. M. Parker, with his wife, arrived upon the scene in a single rig."

"The dinner was a success, at least the boys thought so, if appearances are any judge. After dinner, as it was still raining, the dining-room was cleared and dancing begun. After an hour of this delightful exercise had been indulged in, and it having stopped raining, the whole party proceeded down to the beach to examine



Mark Z. Lampman, acquired the Lake Breeze House in the early 1880s and successfully operated the resort until 1888 (courtesy of Drew Penfield).



Lakeshore bathers from the Garfield-Root family in the late 1800s.

the rocks, and other interesting features. While here, they tried to break a huge limestone rock but without success. Then it began to rain, and they again made for the shelter. The boys could not resist the temptation to take a bath, and so they indulged to their hearts content but when they returned they looked as blue as whetstones. After a few games had been played, the baskets were re-packed, and they started for home and they reached this welcome place at nine o'clock, having enjoyed themselves hugely."

Dr. B. W. Donaldson, in his 1951 book, *Thoughts on Lorain, Ohio*, describes an event he witnessed at Lake Breeze House in 1900: "A niece of Mr. Arthur J. Moxham [President of Johnson Steel Company], Miss Kate D. Moxham from Louisville, Kentucky, swam straight out from shore at Lake Breeze until she was completely out of sight from those watching from the bank. Finally she reappeared and swam in; I have never seen this fete performed by anyone else, and neither have I heard of anyone doing such a stunt, either man or woman. The young girl probably did not know of the danger of swimming alone and in the colder waters of Lake Erie. We all thought she would be drowned."

In 1884 Mark Lampman published this advertisement:

LAKE BREEZE HOUSE.

SEASON OF 1884.

This pleasant Summer Resort is situated on the shore of Lake Erie, directly north of Elyria eight miles, twenty-two miles from Cleveland west. Parties desiring to visit this pleasant resort, can take the Nickel Plate from Cleveland, the C. L. & W. R. R. from the south, and connect with the Nickel Plate at Lorain for Lake Breeze Station, where there will be a carriage in waiting to convey them to the House, three-quarter mile distant. No expense has been spared to make it one of the pleasantest and most home-like summer resorts situated upon the shore of old Erie, whose waters present at all times an ever changing panorama of vessels and steamboats mirrored upon its placid bosom, conveying hither and yon the life and commerce of a Nation.

The buildings stand upon an elevation of twenty-eight feet above the water; an abundance of shade, beautiful surroundings, an easy decline to the sand beach, where are boats for those whose delight is to pull the oar, and gently receding beach admirably adapted for bathing. The buildings are specially designed for the convenience of families. In the main building the rooms are large, airy and arranged in suits for the convenience and comfort of families. The cottages are of different sizes, planned for large and small families. The buildings are all within seventy-five feet of the bank of the lake.

The tables are supplied with fresh milk, cream butter, fruit and vegetables, in all their freshness from the farm, as well as wholesome food and such luxuries as the season affords.

Large and spacious box stalls, ample accommodation for horses.

To families seeking health, comfort and pleasure, we think we can now offer this as one of the most attractive and desirable summer resorts on the lake. Much more could be said of this beautiful place. Thousands have felt the need of a place where for a few weeks at least they could throw off the cares and restraints of their every-day life, and rest. To such we can truly say, Lake Breeze will meet your wants. Good fishing in its season. Boats are kept for the special use of guests. The many beautiful drives to this resort from Cleveland, Elyria, Wellington, Oberlin and many other places, I shall open for driving parties June 10th, and for parties wishing to stay, June 20th, 1884.

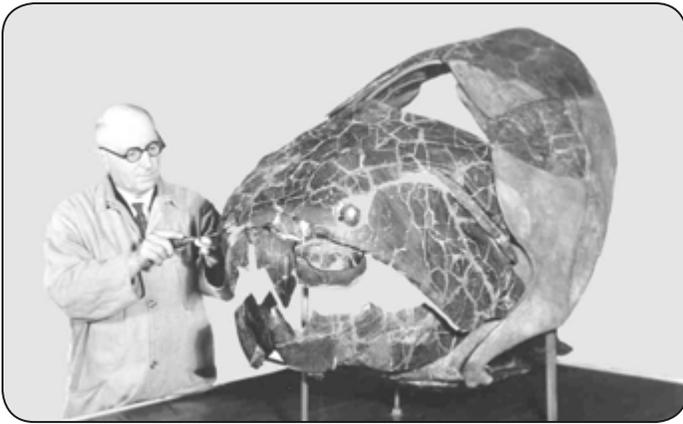
\$2.00 per day. \$10.00 per week. Children under 10, Half Price.

Children under 10 occupying seats at the first table will be charged full rates, except by special arrangement.

M. Z. LAMPMAN,

Owner and Proprietor,

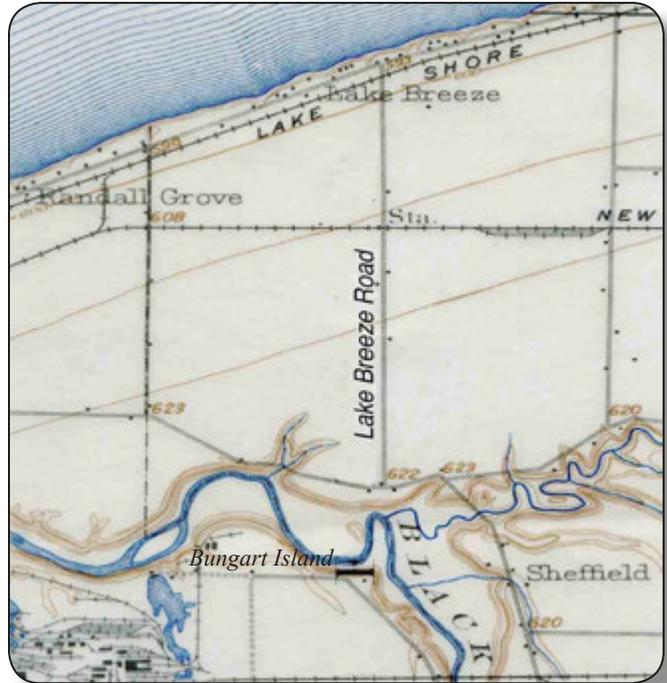
Post Office Address, Lake Breeze, Lorain County, Ohio.



Jay Terrell, an avid fossil hunter, was the first to discover this 375 million-year-old placoderm fish, Dunkleosteus terrelli, that was named in his honor. He was mentor to young Peter Bungart, who grew up on a farm at Bungart Island west of Lake Breeze Road (see map below). Years later Peter was the first to reconstruct the armored head plates of this fish, as shown here at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

First Topographic Map of Lake Breeze

In 1901 the US Geological Survey (USGS) surveyed Sheffield Township and in 1903 published the results as a topographic map showing land elevations with 10-foot contour intervals. The elevation of Lake Erie is indicated at 573 feet above sea level, while the head of Lake Breeze Road at the lakeshore is 593 feet, and the south end foot of the road at the top of the Black River bluff is 622 feet. A later USGS map (1953) shows that the elevation along Lake Breeze Road rises to slightly over 625 feet at the northern ends of Lots 61 and 62, yielding a total relief of 32 feet along the route (see page 24). The 1901 survey also showed that six dwellings were located on the west side of the road and five on the east side. Because the USGS map is in close agreement with the dwelling locations shown on the 1874 survey map, it is suspected that the lack of four dwellings on Lots 28 and 30 is an oversight by the mapmaker. Also, the East Lorain Street Railroad that ended at Root Road with street car barns on the 1896 map, is shown extending all the way across the Township on this USGS map as the Lake Shore Electric Railway, about 0.1 mile south of Lake Road.



Mathew Webber House

As discussed earlier under the Samuel Fitch House, Peter Weaver purchased the Fitch property in 1870. When Peter died in 1884, his estate was divided between his son Mathew (1864-1919) and his daughter Mary (1865-1947), who married Jacob Alten (1865-1949). The Altens lived in the Fitch House until 1940. Mathew, who preferred to use the original form of the name "Webber" rather than "Weaver," married Jacob Alten's sister, also named Mary (1867-1927), and presumably built the Mathew Webber House on Lot 61 in the 1880s, which first appears on the 1896 Tax Map. This large Folk Vernacular-style farmhouse has five bedrooms and an original fireplace. The Webber family continued to live there into the 1920s. The 1938 County Engineer's Map shows the ownership as Michael J. and Rosella L. Bruder. The Bruders operated a dairy farm into the 1950s and supplied raw milk to Mackert's Dairy on Abbe Road. Historical Society members Denny Davis and Kenny Nehls, who grew up on Roberts Street one block west of Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake, recall a particularly severe winter in the early 1950s when snow drifts blocked traffic on Lake Breeze Road for several days. Their families were in need of milk, so the boys towed a sled on foot all the way down to the Bruder Farm and back with the precious cargo for the families. The current owner

of the house is Rosemary Boothe. Although it faces Lake Breeze Road at the intersection with Old Colorado Avenue, it carries the address 4055 Colorado Avenue.



Mathew Webber House, 4055 Colorado Avenue, is the last house on the southern extension of Lake Breeze Road. This large Folk Vernacular-style farmhouse, built in the 1880s, has five bedrooms and an original fireplace.

Gawn-Cotton House

Located on original Lot 42 at 882 Lake Breeze Road on the northwest corner of the intersection with Forest Lawn Avenue, this Folk Vernacular-style house was built ~1910. As such, it is the second oldest existing house on Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake, after the John Fox House. Thomas Gawn was owner of the property in 1896 and Emma Gawn in 1912. It was likely constructed as a wood framed, two-story farmhouse with clapboard siding. It has a gable front and a right-hand one-story

wing. The second floor extensions were most likely added at a later date. A massive exterior chimney of red brick dominates the front of the house.

This house was owned by the Vincent Cotton family in the 1930s and 1940s as rental property. One of the tenants during this period was the Edward Herdendorf, Jr. and his wife, Esther Kathryn (Root), descendant of the Day, Garfield, and Root pioneer families of 1815 and 1816. This was the home your Editor at his birth.



Gawn-Cotton House, at 882 Lake Breeze Road, was built in the Folk Vernacular Style circa 1910. The house originally had a set of Doric-style columns at the sides of the front entrance as shown in this 1939 photograph.



The Edward Herdendorf, Jr. family lived in this house from 1937-1940. Their son, Eddie is in the stroller at the front of the house.



The front-gable façade of the Gawn-Cotton House is dominated by a massive chimney that facilitates a large fireplace. This recent photograph shows that an extended side wing and a picture window have been added to the original design.

Tax Map of 1912

The next available view of Lake Breeze Road is the 1912 Tax Map. This map does not include the location of dwellings, but in addition to the rights-of-way of the two previously mentioned rail lines, a third line (Lake Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad) is shown crossing Lake Breeze Road at the northern ends of Lots 61 and 62, about half-a-mile north of Old Colorado Avenue. This railroad was completed through the township in 1917 to service the newly constructed Cromwell Steel Company located on the north bank of the Black River west of Root Road (see March 2011 issue of *The Village Pioneer*, Vol. 6 No. 1, pages 2-4). Also, by 1912 the portions of the original lots of Norman Day (No. 42) and Joseph Fitch (No. 41) on the north side of Lake Road are subdivided into some 12 parcels for the construction of lakeshore cottages. The schoolhouse continues to be indicated on Lake Road at Lot 41. The owners and acreages of the properties adjoining Lake Breeze Road in 1912 are listed in the following table:

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE			EAST SIDE		
Name	Lot No.	Acres	Name	Lot No.	Acres
Orville Root	42	1	FS Miller	41	1

Lake Shore Electric Railway Right-of-Way

Emma Gawn	42	105	S Pratt	41	26
			Emma Gawn	41	13
Bartley Fox	30 & 42	19	Amanda Lane	29	80

New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Right-of-Way

Thomas Fox	30	65	Phillip Eiden	29	57
			K Krause & L Ziegman	28	40
			Wm H Field	28	1
Bartley Fox	61	20	John Younglass	28	30
AM Ziegman	61	18	Wm H Field	28	79

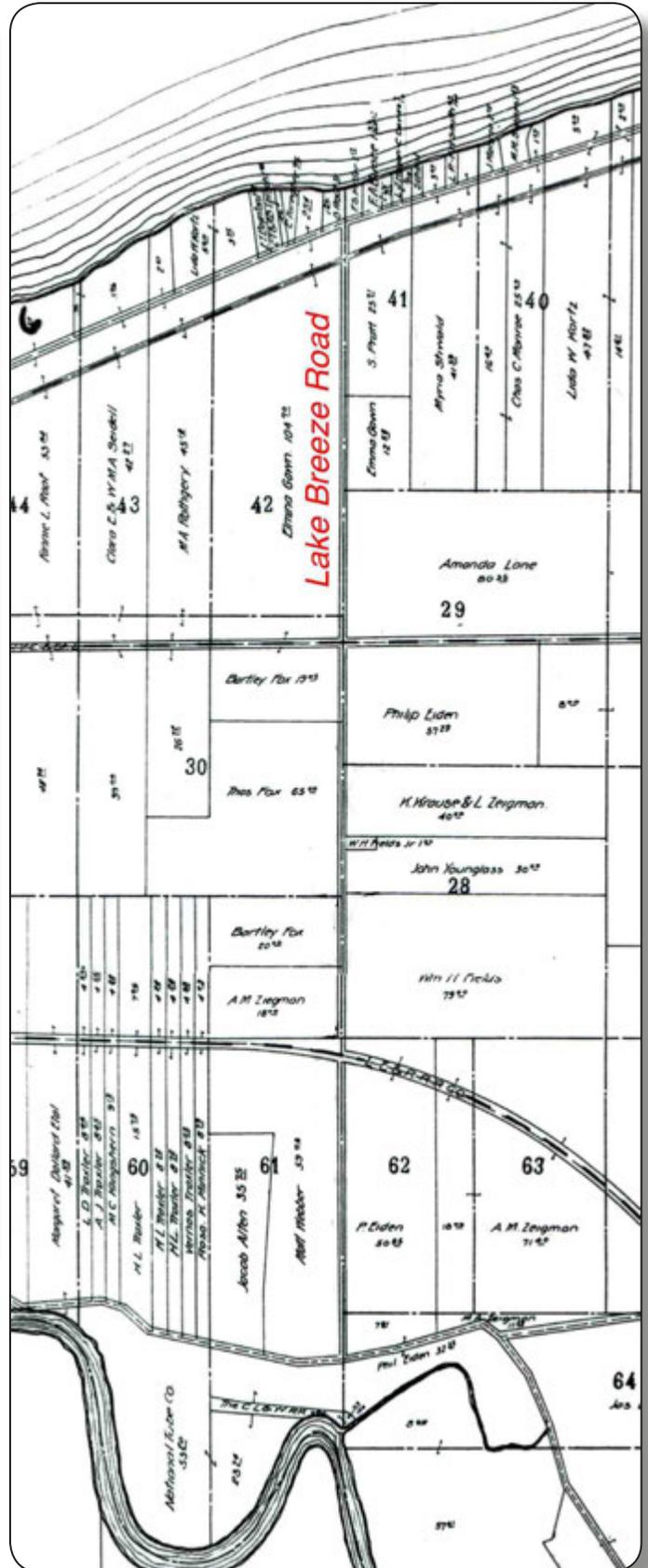
Lake Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad Right-of-Way

Matt Webber	61	59	Phillip Eiden	62 & 64	90
National Tube	61	24			

BLACK RIVER

Centennial Celebration of 1915

In 1915 Sheffield Township celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding. The Centennial Celebration consisted of a 2-day reunion, which included a launch ride up the Black River (Todd's Boat House in Lorain to the Hyer Farm) with jitney buses from the top of the hill to French Creek Hollow for a program, dancing in the grove (later to become James Day Park), a general assembly at the old church called to order by Orville Root, and a picnic on the lawn of the Harry Burrell home that was attended by more than 300 residents, former residents, and county friends (August 11th & 12th). Ray Cogswell gave the first 50 years of the history of Sheffield, which had been prepared in the 1870s by Norman Day. Mrs. G. L. Cuddeback presented the history of the second 50 years and Mary C. Diederich presented the history of the German residents



of Sheffield. Curios on display at the Burrell Homestead included a shawl worn by Captain John Day's wife 100 years earlier, a bundle of flax grown on the Day farm, a yarn weaver made by the Shakers and sold to Halsey Garfield in 1865, a map of Connecticut dated 1790, and the old Day Family Bible published in 1813.

Tax Map of 1915

The 1915 Tax Map for Sheffield Township shows a similar configuration of parcels as seen in the 1912 map, with several ownership changes. Details of the ownership along Lake Breeze Road in 1915 are given in the following table:

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE			EAST SIDE		
Name	Lot No.	Acres	Name	Lot No.	Acres
Orville Root	42	1	FS Miller	41	1

Lake Shore Electric Railway Right-of-Way

Breese Ailot	42	105	S Pratt	41	26
			DD Lewis	41	13
Bartley Fox	30	19	Amanda Lane	29	80

New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Right-of-Way

Thomas Fox	30	65	JP Eiden	29	63
			Salvatore Naro	28	70
			Wm H Field	28	1
Bartley Fox	61	20	Minnie L Field	28	82
AM & G Ziegman	61	18	FF Field	62	10

Lake Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad Right-of-Way

Mary Webber	61	59	JP Eiden	62	40
National Tube	61	24	Mary Eiden	62 & 64	32

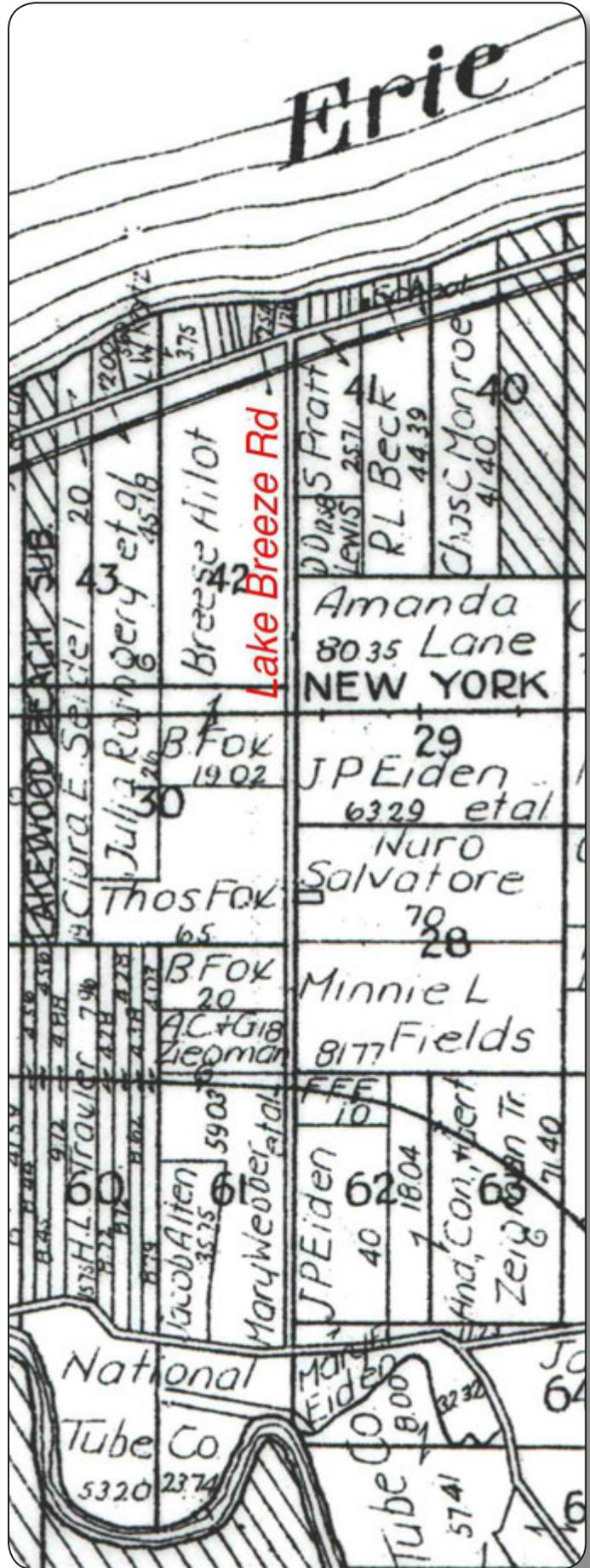
BLACK RIVER



Sheffield Centennial Celebration at the Burrell Homestead in 1915.



Sheffield Congregational Church where services were held for the Centennial Celebration in 1915.



Dividing the Township

In 1920 Township residents living east of the Black River voted to withdraw from Sheffield Township and formed the incorporated Village of Sheffield Lake. However, by the early 1930s the new Village was experiencing internal problems. Because the south end of the Village had a sparse population with large farms, while the north end had a greater population living on small lots, the residents of these two segments found their interests to be incompatible. In 1933, the farmers in the

south end voted almost unanimously to separate from Sheffield Lake Village and formed the Village of Sheffield in 1934.

On Lake Breeze Road the divide between the two communities was set at the railroad tracks (now Norfolk & Southern Railroad). By 1923 the Lake Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad had closed down and abandoned its tracks in Sheffield, while the Lake Shore Electric Railway ceased operation in May 1937, and by 1939 its tracks had been dismantled on Lake Breeze Road.

Engineer's Map of 1938

In 1938 H. L. Dunham, Lorain County Engineer, produced a property map of the North Half of Sheffield Village. The information regarding Lake Breeze Road is contained in the following table:

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE			EAST SIDE		
Name	Lot No.	Acres	Name	Lot No.	Acres
Sheffield Village					
New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Right-of-Way					
Thomas Fox	30	14	H Hackman Jr	29	57
Catherine Eiden	30	65	Salvatore Naro	28	70
Theresa Foley	61	20	Minnie L Field	28	82
Matilda Wier	61	18	Thornburg Sales	62	7
Lake Erie & Pittsburgh Railroad Right-of-Way (abandoned)					
R & M Bruder	61	59	Mary Eiden 62 & 64	130	
National Tube	61	24			

BLACK RIVER



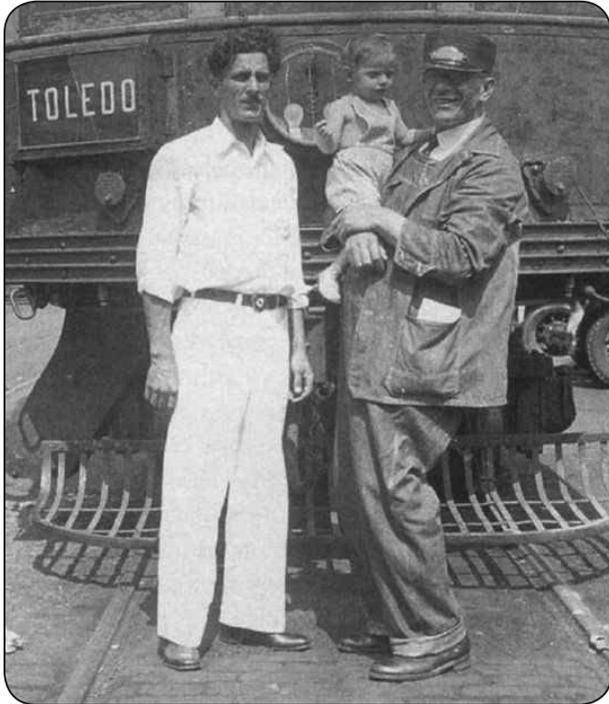
Stop 86 on the Lake Shore & Electric Railroad.

Advertisement for the Lake Breeze Subdivision at Stop 86 on the Interurban trolley line. The announcement was published on May 27, 1927 by the Skyes & Thompson Co., Lorain County's largest developer of subdivisions at that time (courtesy of Drew Penfield).

Wild-West-Movie-Style Rescue at Stop 86

Heroism was displayed aboard Car 61 of the Lake Shore Electric Railroad on August 24, 1932, when motorman William “Bill” G. Lang rescued a child from the track near Stop 86 (Lake Breeze Road) in Sheffield Lake. In the early morning light, Bill Lang was horrified to see “a baby” in the tracks not 700 feet ahead of the trolley. Traveling at 55 mph he reversed the motors, but knew he couldn’t stop in time. At only 400 feet away he scrambled out of

the cab and onto the car’s front fender. Still moving at 25 mph, somehow he was able to twist down and snatch the 22-month-old girl before the trolley could crush her. His heroism won him the Carnegie Medal and a special Interstate Commerce Commission Award presented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The young girl, Leila Jean Smith, survived with minor injuries. She is the aunt of Historical Society member Len Smith.



Motorman William G. Lang holding Leila Jean Smith, the little girl he rescued from the Lake Shore Electric Railroad tracks by climbing on the front fender of the speeding trolley and snatching her from a certain death. Leila’s grateful father stands at left (courtesy of Albert C. Doane).



Artist’s drawing of Bill Lang’s rescue of a baby girl playing on the interurban tracks near Stop 86 (courtesy of Drew Penfield).



Happy reunion of 19-year-old Leila Smith with Bill Lang, the man who saved her life (courtesy of Drew Penfield).

Leslie Hooper House



Leslie Hooper House, at 4061 Tennyson Avenue, is a Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalog house built in 1940. This particular model had the name "Sunlight." The older homes along this avenue were built adjacent to the Interurban trolley line for easy access to Cleveland-Lorain passenger transportation.

Starting in the 1920s, and particularly following the abandonment of the Interurban right-of-way (Lake Shore Electric Railway) in the late 1930s, the Lake Breeze Allotment was developed several blocks east of Lake Breeze Road on original Lot 42 that was owned by Norman Day in the early 1800s. Parcels in the allotment with about 40 feet of frontage and up to 125 feet deep were advertised at prices ranging from \$400 to \$800. Leslie Hooper, an electrician with the National Tube Co., purchased a lot at 4061 Tennyson Avenue from his father, whose home was immediately to the west. Leslie's father came from England about 1920 and bought two lots on Tennyson Avenue, just north of the Interurban right-of-way and just east of Lake Breeze Road. The father, who worked at Halle Bros. department store in downtown Cleveland, would take the Interurban to and from work each day. Leslie and his wife Selma built a Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalog house in 1940 with the model name "Sunlight." The Hopper family lived in the house until 1999 when it was purchased by Historical Society member Vivian McCullough.



Interurban trolley car on the Lake Shore Electric Railroad near Stop 86 at Lake Breeze Road. The trolley line offered passenger service between Cleveland and Lorain on a frequent schedule (courtesy of Dennis Lamont).

Edward Herdendorf House

Built in the late 1920s, this house was the home of the Herdendorf family from 1928 to 1972. As a two-story wood frame house, it is unusual in its half-hip, gabled roof design as shown on the accompanying photographs. Architecturally, the house can be classified as Eclectic Tudor Style based on the emphasis placed on high-pitched gabled roofs, the use of cross-gables, and tall, narrow windows in multiple groups. Though not common, this style was used in northern Ohio until about 1940.

Originally from the Buffalo, New York area, Edward Herdendorf and his family moved to Lorain, Ohio in 1920. After



Edward Herdendorf House at 846 Lake Breeze Road, was built circa 1928 for this Lorain businessman who wished to raise his family away from the congestion of the Lorain. The house design with beveled gable roofs is based on English cottage homes.

working as a welder at the Lorain shipyard for a few years he opened the Standard Welding Co. on Broadway and 13th Street. In 1928 Edward bought the house on Lake Breeze Road and moved his family to Sheffield Lake. In the 1940s he moved his welding business to 28th Street in South Lorain, across from the steel mills. During

World War II and after, much of the welding shop's work centered on repairs to National Tube Co. vehicles and equipment.

Other than enclosing the porch and replacing the shingle siding the exterior is essentially unchanged since the house was built. Located at 846 Lake Breeze Road this house is now owned by J. E. Morrow.



This illustration from the Sears, Roebuck & Co. 1926 House Catalog depicts "The Hathaway," the style selected by Edward Herdendorf, Sr. for his home at 846 Lake Breeze Road. The 1926 cost of this house, unassembled, was \$1,805. The accompanying 1943 photograph of him and his family shows the open front porch at the upper right, while the recent colored photograph shows that the porch has since been enclosed. Other than this change, the exterior of the house is strikingly similar to the catalog illustration.



Standard Welding Company in the 1930s, owned and operated by Edward Herdendorf, Sr. on Broadway at 13th Street in Lorain, Ohio.



The family of Edward Herdendorf, Sr. in 1943 at his home on Lake Breeze Road, Sheffield Lake, Ohio (left to right) Edward, Jr., Edward, Sr., Eddie, III, Gerturde, MaBell, and LaBerta.

Emil Kardos House

This Craftsman-style bungalow is typical of the houses being built in Sheffield Lake during the 1920s and 1930s. The one-and-a-half story house features a side-gabled roof with a large front dormer and a low sweeping roof that covers a porch that extends across the entire front of the house. Located at 780 Lake Breeze Road, this was the home of the Emil & Pauline Kardos family during the 1930s to 1960s where they raised their children David and Judy. As did many of the residents along Lake Breeze Road, Emil worked at the National Tube Co. steel mills in South Lorain. His daughter still fondly remembers the family's first automobile—a 1936 Terraplane. Manufactured by the Hudson Motor Car Company from 1932–1938,

famous aviator Amelia Earhart helped introduce the Terraplane to the public and Orville Wright bought one of the first ones because this affordable vehicle “was a small, but very powerful, car with a steel frame, built to exacting standards.” Judy also remembers running down the road barefoot on the hot sticky asphalt to see

if there were “white caps” on the lake. If there were, the kids would grab their inner tubs to ride those huge waves. Judy’s boyfriend, Denny Davis, lived a block away on Roberts Street. The couple married in 1964 and currently they live in Middleburg Heights. They are charter members of the Historical Society.



Judy Kardos and Dennis Davis at Judy's Lake Breeze Road home on their wedding day August 15, 1964 (courtesy of Judy Davis).



Emil Kardos House, at 780 Lake Breeze Road, is believed to have been built before the Great Depression. This Craftsman-style bungalow is typical of the houses being built in Sheffield Lake during the 1920s.



Emil Kardos' 1936 Terraplane automobile at his home on Lake Breeze Road in 1940. The children are David and Judy Kardos with their cousin Gary Mainette in the center (courtesy of Judy Davis).



Judy (Kardos) Davis and her 1963 Chevy corvair on Lake Breeze Road (courtesy of Judy Davis).

Directory of 1948

By 1948 the number of residential homes on Lake Breeze Road had grown to eleven in the Village of Sheffield Lake and nine south of the railroad tracks in Sheffield Village. The Page-Baldwin and Brown Company of Columbus, Ohio produced a *Lorain County, Ohio Directory* that year that listed the residents by house number for each street in the in two Villages. The information for Lake Breeze Road is given in the following table:

LAKE ERIE

No. Resident—homeowner (H) renter (R)	Occupation/Employment
---------------------------------------	-----------------------

Sheffield Lake Village

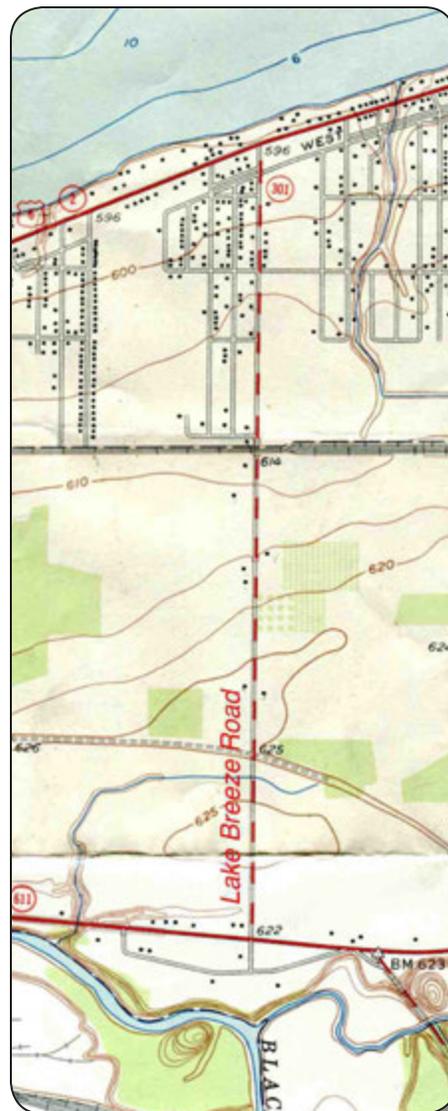
752	Lester C & Lillian G Cherry (H)	National Tube Co
772	Walter E & Coyette M Green (H)	Lake Terminal RR (engineer)
780	Emil S & Pauline Kardos (H)	National Tube Co
788	Robert A & Silvia M Cochran (H)	laborer
814	EC Sproles (R)	Lake Terminal RR (fireman)
833	Elmer & Stephanie Nehls (R)	Thew Shovel Co
	[house faces Roberts Street, access via Lake Breeze Road]	
846	Edw & Charlotte Herdendorf (H)	Standard Welding Co (owner)
882	Robert S & Mary J First (H)	accountant
904	Vincent G & Idella K Cotton	carpenter
994	Lawrence E & Jennie Meinac (H)	chemist
998	George W & Vada L Howells (H)	Lake Terminal RR (brakeman)

Sheffield Village

(note: 1948 house nos. do not correspond to today)

1016	Peter & Mildred Dukich (H)	carpenter
1030	Charles A & Flora French (H)	Lorain Towel Supply (engineer)
1135	Charles C & Olive Naro (H)	Thew Shovel Co & fruit farmer (71 acres)
1228	Albert F & Oletha Schmidt (H)	National Tube Co
1320	vacant house	
1438	summer cottage	
1441	Robert F Sonderman (H)	Pittsburgh Plate Glass & farmer (82 acres)
2038	Michael J & Rosella L Bruder (H)	National Tube Co
4821	Clarence W & Elsie Weber (H)	National Tube Co
	[house faces Old Colorado Avenue]	

BLACK RIVER



US Geological Survey Topographic Map (1953).

During the early 1950s in Sheffield Lake Village, four building contractors had constructed 726 homes, valued at \$15,000 to \$25,000: 100 on Warwick Drive, 390 in Knickerbocker Knolls, 168 in Maple Grove, and 68 in Lake Breeze Manor. Paved streets, sanitary and storm sewers, and utilities were installed in each of these allotments. A major factor in these improvements was the construction of a sanitary sewer on Lake Road that connected with the Lorain sewer system. The sewer was designed to service Lake Road and the new allotments. Extensions down other streets in Sheffield Lake Village were also made available by petition .

Mac Nott House

This Ranch-style house, built in 1957 at 736 Lake Breeze Road, exemplifies the homes being built on Lake Breeze Road as subdivisions were being developed. The popularity of this rambling style, along with its attached garage, was made popular by the country's increasing dependence on the automobile. Rather than the 40-foot lots along the Interurban right-of-way of the 1920s, the homes of the 1950s were typically built on double lots. This style is loosely based on earlier Spanish Colonial homes of the American southwest, modified by influences borrowed from Craftsman and Prairie designs. The dominant feature is an asymmetrical one-story shape with a low-pitched roof. The current owners of this house are Historical Society member Caroline Nott and her husband Mac.



Mac Nott House at 736 Lake Breeze Road. This 1957 Ranch-style house is typical of those built along the road in Sheffield Lake during the 1950s.

Cleveland Beach

In 1953, the *Lorain Journal* reported that because of the sandy beaches and the Cleveland Beach Dance Hall, the community known as Lake Breeze became a summer resort before the Great Depression years. By the early 1950s, many of the cottages had been remodeled into “comfortable” year-round homes and a new school, Tennyson Elementary, had been erected where the dance hall once stood. Also, only a few of the sandy beaches remained because of record-high water levels in Lake Erie. Beaches were much more prevalent in the 1930s because lake levels were at record lows during the “Dust Bowl” years.



The lakeshore was a focal point of the community of Lake Breeze in the years before the Great Depression. This beach is now operated by the Mizpah Association. A Mizpah Memorial plaque, dated July 2, 1939, is located on the piling at the beach.



White caps on Lake Erie east of Lake Breeze Road. The children along Lake Breeze Road in the 1940s and 1950s would relish stormy days like this so they could ride their inner tubes on the crests of the waves.

In the early 1930s the old Cleveland Beach Dance Hall, where Tennyson School now stands, was purchased by Nick Kelling, dismantled, moved to his farm at the northeast corner of Abbe and French Creek Roads, and rebuilt as a barn. By 1955 the farm was operated by his son, Cyril Kelling. On May 5th of that year the barn caught on fire. The fire was small and the barn could have been saved from destruction by the Sheffield Village Fire Department, if it hadn't been for a spectator who threw a rock through a window. Brisk westerly winds whisked in the hole and fanned the embers inside into a roaring blaze that quickly consumed the building.



Fire destroyed the Kelling barn in 1955 (courtesy of Gladys Wisneski).



Aerial view of the Cyril Kelling farm in the early 1950s. The barn was constructed in the 1930s from the dismantled Cleveland Beach Dance Hall (courtesy of Lee Kelling).

Ghosts of the Cleveland Beach Dance Hall

The “Glory Days” of the old Cleveland Beach Dance Hall live on in Tennyson Elementary School. Demolished nearly 70 years ago to make way for the new school, ghosts of the Cleveland Beach Dance Hall dancers have been reported by several of the former teachers



Tennyson Elementary School, built in 1949 at the original location of the Cleveland Beach Dance Hall.

and a custodian. Recently retired second grade teacher and Historical Society member Jackie (Schwartz) Dembek vividly recalls hearing the shuffling feet of dancers above her classroom in the late afternoon once the students gone home. On another occasion, a penny fell from somewhere above and rolled across the floor with no apparent place of origin. Then the old school clock unexpectedly fell from its prominent place on the school wall, crashed to the floor, and disintegrated. Repeated attempts to replace the cloak failed—they just wouldn't work when hung in the old spot, as if time was trying to stand still so the dancers could return. She said the weirdest story comes from a custodian who actually saw an apparition in the school gym—a filmy figure cloaked in black passed mysteriously through closed doors, danced across the floor, then disappeared. Anyway its nice to see that someone (or thing) is try to keep the Dance Hall's heritage alive!

Directory of 1969

The Village of Sheffield Lake experienced a rapid growth in population in the last half of the 20th century, while Sheffield Village continued to grow slowly as shown in the table below. In 1960 the Village of Sheffield Lake surpassed the 5,000-population threshold and automatically became designated as a city. The growth of Sheffield Lake was accomplished by the addition of numerous residential subdivisions throughout the community in the 1950s through the 1970s. The number of homes along Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake rose sharply during this period, particularly on the east side of the road where very few dwellings were located in the earlier decades. *Polk's Lorain City Directory for 1969* includes a listing for Lake Breeze Road in both the City of Sheffield Lake and the Village of Sheffield:

LAKE ERIE

No.	Resident	Occupation/Employment
City of Sheffield Lake		
TENNYSON AVE INTERSECTION		
600	Lake Breeze Apartments (under constuction)	
IVANHOE AVE INTERSECTION		
710	Harry E & Jeanette E White	
716	James W & Neva J Baker	Ford Mtrs (machine operator)
720	Paul G & Marion M Edwards	Lorain Products (foreman)
736	Mac H & Caroline E Nott	Mac's Atlantic Service Stn
745	Gloria L Lotko	Ohio Bureau Empl Services
752	Vacant	
757	Mary Koboley	retired
762	Robert J & Catherine A Martin	retired
756	James & Doris C Ferguson	Water&Sewage SL (serv mn)
772	Unknown	
773	Larry J & Gale D Stidham	Ford Motors (lab technician)
780	Mearl H & Patricia M Walton	Water&Sewage SL (serv mn)
784	Mary L Abel	retired
785	John & Nora Scarvelli	Firelands-Vermilion (lbr)
788	Hoy S Jr & Linda S Keith	Ford Motors (assemble man)
FERNDALE AVE INTERSECTION		
805	Frank J & Matilda S Schwelick	NASA (instrument man)
806	William J & Angie Griffore	Tel Co (lineman)
813	Norman & Patricia Hargreaves	Thew Shovel (engineer)
814	Lela M Blair	retired
821	Lester L & Ruth E Babbitts	W 117 th AutoBody (bodymn)
829	Raymond L & Joanne M Miller	Griffith (truck driver)
837	Roberta M Klimlosi	Aqua Marine (laundress)
840	Frank I & Maureen Olati	Ford Motors (supervisor)
845	Ernest J & Genevieve L Singer	US Steel-Lorain (millwright)
846	Charles E & Helen Herdendorf	Standard Welding Co
853	Dennis R & Cynthia L Criss	N&W RR-Cleveland (clerk)
861	John G & Patty L Marr	Food Motors (finisher)
869	Leslie E & Jean F Edmonds	National Gypsum (foreman)
877	Anthony H & Alice M Tobicash	Beiter Lines (driver)
882	Myron L & Lillian J Piggott	Fruehauf Trailer (chnng over)
885	Wilfred & Lillian H Stewart	sheet metal worker
893	Ronald L & Kathlynn I Owen	Lear Seigler (grinder)
899	Grant J & Bonnie A Rollason	Thew Shovel (welder)
FOREST LAWN AVE INTERSECTION		
901	Jack E & Roxie L Morrow	France Mfg (die setter)
909	Okey E & Mary Lou Brammer	B F Goodrich (maint man)
914	Richard & Lynette Wissinger	Fruehauf Trailer (draftsman)
915	Phillip D & Barbara A Rhodes	Ford Motors (body assemblr)
923	Donald A & Barbara E Smithberger	Ford Mtrs (mechanic)

CONTINUED

LAKE ERIE

No.	Resident	Occupation/Employment
BELLE AVE INTERSECTION		
927	Carole R Horn	City Bd Of Health (nurse)
934	August Casper	Bendix-Westinghouse (mech)
937	Robert & Gisela E Wimberger	Fisher-Fazio (bakery mgr)
943	Richard J & Linda G Oravec	B F Goodrich (mill rm wkr)
944	Amos J & Dorothy M. Cooper	Luxury Htg (sheet metaler)
945	Mallie Hall	Aquamarine (clerk)
BROCKLEY AVE INTERSECTION		
949	William H & Lois McCaughey	Halle Bros (buyer)
955	Gregory K & Margt A Bacher	Imbrogno's Sohio (attendant)
959	Donald K & Diane L Chesnut	Amway Distributor
963	Laverne J Clark	Amway Distributor (clerk)
964	Arthur R & Leona Libengood	Brookside High (teacher)
966	Stanley J & Stella Kowalczyk	US Steel Lorain (stenciler)
968	William C & Jewell Anderson	B&O RR (brakeman)
KNICKERBOCKER ROAD INTERSECTION		
973	John P & Rosemarie H Bell	Binney & Smith (salesman)
975	James B & Barbara L Osborn	Ford Motors (utility man)
987	Edward R & Bernice Wittreich Anne M Wittreich	Lehman Cartage (driver) Lorain Journal (typist)
991	James G III & Maxine Griffith	Griffith Black Top (operator)
994	Robert L & Mabel G Widener Richard Widener Robert Widener	Thew Shovel (tester) Thew Shovel Cleveland Marine
SOUTH AVE-HOLL ROAD INTERSECTION		
997	Livey C & Clara Marsh	Mid-Atlantic (truck driver)
998	Joseph J & Mary E Parker William D & Lucy O Barber	US Steel-Lorain (laborer) Fruehauf Trailer (welder)
Sheffield Village		
RAILROAD CROSSING		
1016	Joseph P & Helen J Dukich	Penn Security (draftsman)
1102	Flora L French	retired
1120	Hans W & Lillian B Thielhorn	retired
1152	Franklin J & Virginia R Urban	Avon Tavern
1159	Charles & Evelyn Vanek	B F Goodrich (maint man)
1200	Sherman & Betty L Lawhorn	Ford Motors (inspector)
1238	Lester N & Hazel U Pratt	Jack Edwards Citgo (mech)
1430	Lake Breeze Church of the Brethren	church
1451	Club Carousel Inc	swim club
1490	Vacant	
1515	John S & Mildred C Toth James Toth	US Steel-Lorain (crane man) American Ship Bldg (welder)
COLORADO ROAD INTERSECTION		
4055	[Colorado Ave] Rosella Bruder	(widow of Michael)
BLACK RIVER		



Shoreway Shopping Center, at the intersection of Lake and Lake Breeze Roads, as it appeared in the 1960s. In its over 50-year history, the commercial businesses in the Center have changed and a new grocery store was constructed at the south end of the center (4100 Ivanhoe Avenue). In recent years the Giant Eagle grocery store there has been taken over by an Apples market.



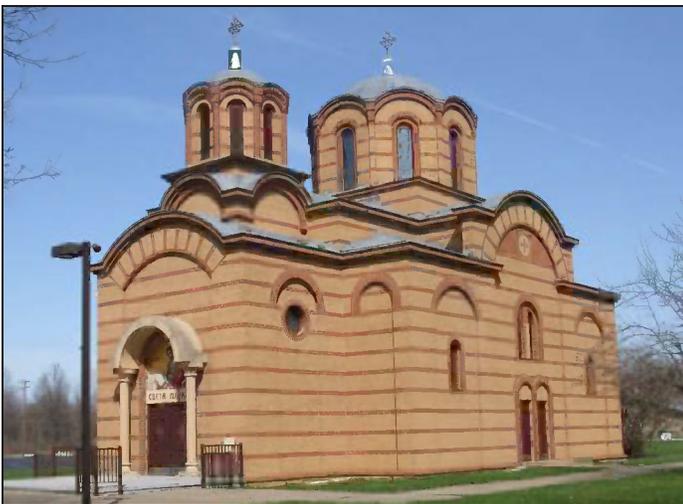
Aerial view of Shoreway Shopping Center in 2001. The Domonkas Branch Library is located on the lakeshore near the center of the photograph. Lake Breeze Road is located at the far right with Tennyson Lawn Apartments on the west side (right) of the road. This photograph was taken in the early spring—note the ice accumulation on the shore to the east of Lake Breeze Road.



The William W. Barr Elementary School, at 2180 Lake Breeze Road, was built in 1961 and named in honor of a long-time superintendent of the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City School District.



Carousel Swim & Recreation Club, at 1451 Lake Breeze Road, was built in 1961. For the last three years the pool has been closed, but each fall the Carousel offers a popular Haunted Forest theme for Halloween enthusiasts. The Club is owned and operated by Historical Society charter members Edward "Bud" and Marge Brown.



St. Mark Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church, at 1434 Lake Breeze Road, is one of three churches on the west side of the road in Sheffield Village. Fr. Leontije Alavanja, pastor of St. Mark, is a member of the Historical Society. Believer's of the Spoken Word Tabernacle and Lake Breeze Church of the Brethren are two other houses of worship on Lake Breeze Road.



Breezewood Party Center, located at 1461 Lake Breeze Road, was built in 1966 and offers facilities for up to 400 guests. Breezewood is owned and operated by Historical Society charter members Edward "Bud" and Marge Brown.

Aerial Photographs

The US Geological Survey resurveyed Lorain County from aerial photographs taken in 1952, 1962, 1977, and 1994, producing maps published in 1953, 1963, 1979, and 1994, respectively. The 1953 map indicates 18 houses on Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake (12 on the west side and 6 on the east), whereas the Sheffield Village portion had only 9 dwellings (7 on the west side and 2 on the east). The 1963, 1979, and 1994 maps do not show individual dwellings in Sheffield Lake, rather they show a shaded pattern along the west and east sides of Lake Breeze Road denoting urban development.

However, a 1964 aerial photograph from the Lorain County Engineer's Office shows that 6 new side streets, constructed since 1948, intersect Lake Breeze Road north of the railroad tracks with 20 homes located on the west side of the road and 35 on the east side for a total of 55 dwellings. In addition, the aerial photograph shows a large tract of land in Lot 41 being occupied by the Shoreway Shopping Center at the southeast corner of Lake Breeze and Lake Roads [construction of the this facility was initiated

in 1959 with the primary business being a Kroger Co. grocery store]. Of interest is the observation that several of the houses at the northern end of Lake Breeze Road had been removed by 1964 to make way for the shopping center and a planned 16-unit apartment building on the west side of the road. The apartment block was constructed in the late 1960s by attorney Donald Carek. In contrast, south of the railroad tracks in Sheffield Village, the 1964 aerial photograph shows only 8 houses on the west side and 2 on the east side for a total of 10 dwellings on Lake Breeze Road. In addition, the Lake Breeze Church of the Brethren and Barr Elementary School are shown on the west side and Carousel Swim Club on the east side.

Fortunately, the 1963, 1979, and 1994 USGS maps for the Sheffield Village portion of Lake Breeze Road do indicate the location of dwellings. The 1963 map shows a total of 11 houses (only 2 of which are on the east side), a church, an elementary school, and a swim club. The 1979 map shows the same number of dwellings on the west side and two additional houses on the east

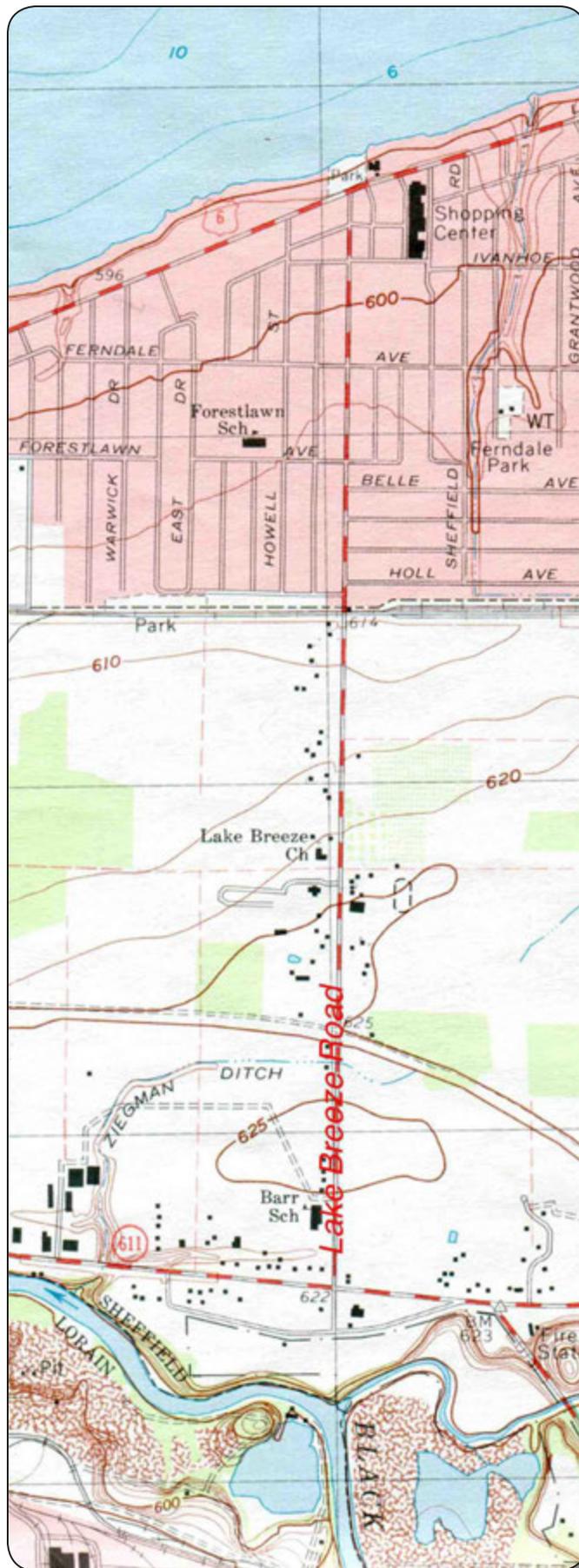
side for a total of 13; two more churches have been constructed, the elementary school has been enlarged and a party center has been added adjacent to the swim club. By 1994 the dwellings on the west side had increased to 21 and the east had 4 homes.

Zaborowski House

Built in 1978 by John Zaborowski and his brother, this 35-year-old, two-story house has perhaps the most unique style of any of the homes on Lake Breeze Road. Architecturally, this delightful dwelling might be classified as Eclectic Spanish/Prairie Style, but it is largely the imagination of the builder. The following features demonstrate the blending of these two Eclectic styles: low-pitched hipped roof with red tile covering, stucco wall surfaces, widely overhanging eaves, one-story garage wing, front porch with massive square porch supports, and decorative security ironwork at the doorway. The flat-roofed garage has a 4-foot-high wall around its roof perimeter to accommodate a secluded sun porch. This 4-bedroom house occupies 2,100 square feet, boasts a fireplace, and has an open framed porch at the rear. Located on the south end of original Lot 42 at 926 Lake Breeze Road, the current owners are John and Susan Zaborowski. John is amused by one of the deed restrictions imposed by the previous landowner, Mr. Levine, which prevents him from growing wheat on the land or selling fruit in front of the house.



The Zaborowski House, at 926 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Lake, was built in 1978. The unique Spanish Colonial/Prairie-style architecture sets this charming home apart from the other dwellings in the neighborhood.



US Geological Survey Topographic Map (1994).

Greg Brezinski House

This Modern-style home was built by Historical Society member Greg Brezinski and his wife Jennifer in 1990 at 1160 Lake Breeze Road. Their house is an example of the homes that have been built in Sheffield Village in recent years along Lake Breeze Road. The house sets back approximately 100 feet from the road on an 8-acre parcel which is in stark contrast to the subdivision homes in Sheffield Lake that are built in close proximity to Lake Breeze Road on quarter-acre plots. The 2,800-square foot Brezinski home incorporates a pleasing colonial “salt box” roof design with a prominent front gable. A widely overhanging main entrance forms the roof of a front porch. A northward projecting wing connects to a two-bay garage at the end of a winding drive.



The Greg Brezinski House, at 1160 Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Village.

Salameh House—The House that Never Was

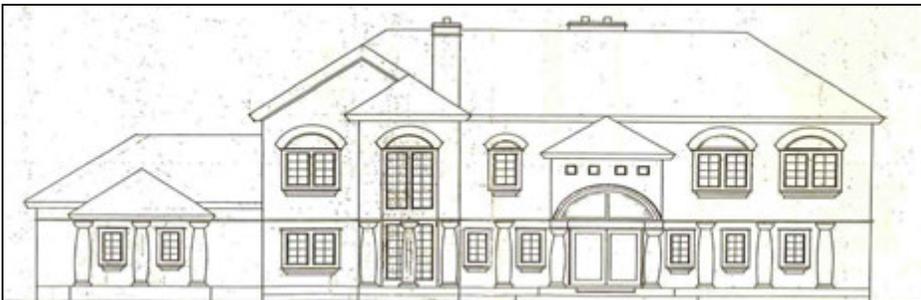
In 2006 George Salameh, a commercial pilot and airline executive, petitioned the Village of Sheffield for a variance to build a grand home on Lake Breeze Road on a 10-acre parcel of land in Lot 30 that was zoned for an Industrial Park.

The petition stated, “I have purchased the parcel [03-00-030-109-10-2] on Lake

Breeze Road with the intent to build a residential home. My plans are to build a beautiful new 6,000 square foot home on 10 acres of wooded land—this would be a great asset to the Village. I already have the approval of the Lorain County Health Department for a sewage disposal system and currently put in 300 feet of culvert pipe

to cover the ditch, and did a bore under the road to run the water line. As you can tell I am very anxious to make the Village my new home. Therefore I am requesting the Sheffield Village Zoning Board of Appeals to review my request for a Use variance to build my new residential home in an Industrial area.”

The Board approved the request and permission was granted. A \$600 fee was assessed and paid. No action was taken to begin construction within the six-month period of the permit and a second \$600 fee was paid to extend the permit for an additional six months. Thereafter the project has remained dormant and the elegant home depicted on the accompanying drawing has never been built. Speculation has it that the project was abandoned because George’s spouse was not in favor of the plan.



Proposed George Salameh House on Lot 30 at the west side of Lake Breeze Road in Sheffield Village. Approval for this house was granted in 2006, but the home was never built.

Recent Developments and Current Status

The City of Sheffield Lake acquired the lakefront property at the head of Lake Breeze Road in the late 1940s and developed it as Sheffield Lake Community Park in the 1950s. The City obtained a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to add a small boat marina/launch ramp in 2007. At the east side of the park, the Domonkas Branch Library of the Lorain Public Library System was dedicated in 1964 by its benefactors, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Domonkas. The original library building occupied 4,700 square feet and housed over 6,000 volumes. In 1989 a 3,700-square foot extension was added. The

City of Sheffield Lake provided the land for the building with a 100-year lease.

In the nearly 200 years since the 2-mile-long Lake Breeze Road was cut through the wooded wilderness to service the 8 lots established by the original survey of Sheffield Township, the number of dwellings has grown from one to 113. Greatest growth has occurred along the Sheffield Lake portion of the road, where a municipal sewer system has been in place since the 1960s.

The US Census population statistics for the two communities demonstrates the dichotomy of growth.

Sheffield Population			
Year	Lake	Village	Total
1930	1,256 [one village]		1,256
1940	1,099	733	1,832
1950	2,381	1,147	3,529
1960	6,884	1,664	8,548
1970	8,734	1,730	10,464
1980	10,484	1,886	12,370
1990	9,825	1,943	11,768
2000	9,371	2,949	12,320
2010	9,137	3,982	13,119

2013 Survey

A recent reconnaissance survey of the structures on Lake Breeze Road, supplemented by property ownership records supplied by the Lorain County Auditor, yielded the following profile of the current status of Lake Breeze Road in the two communities.

LAKE ERIE

WEST SIDE		EAST SIDE	
Building Type	No.	Building Type	No.

Sheffield Lake

Apartment Block (16 units)	1	Shopping Center	1
Single Family Dwellings	32	Single Family Dwellings	34
Number of Parcels	53	Number of Parcels	43

Sheffield Village

New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad Right-of-Way

Single Family Dwellings	27	Single Family Dwellings	4
Churches	3	Swim Club	1
Church Recreational Bldgs	2	Party Center	1
Elementary School	1	Service Station	1
Number of Parcels	39	Number of Parcels	15

BLACK RIVER

Although the Sheffield Village segment has had municipal water service for the last six decades, all of the homes on Lake Breeze Road rely on domestic septic tanks to handle sewage. This single circumstance appears to have been the limiting factor to residential development in Sheffield Village. Additionally, the northern portion of the Village on both sides of Lake Breeze Road [original lots 29 & 30] is now zoned for use as an Industrial Park, even though several residential homes were built there on large parcels with 100-foot setbacks prior to the zoning change two decades ago. Another point of view considers the importance of keeping a balance between productive farmland and residential subdivisions or industrial development.

The original settlers along Lake Breeze Road were all farmers who made their living off the land. They toiled to clear the land and harvest their crops. Many of them spent their lives here and are now buried in Garfield and St. Teresa Cemeteries. We can best honor them by being good stewards of the legacy they left to us and wisely planning for the future.

The Editor is pleased to acknowledge the following individuals for their assistance in the preparation of this article: Dan Brady, Bud Brown, Jim Conrad, Denny & Judy (Kardos) Davis, Jackie Dembek, Richard Donegan, Donnie Hammer, Charlie Hooper, Vivian McCullough, Frank Nesbit, Christine (Pratt) Neuber, Drew Penfield, Jeff Sigsworth, Lenny Smith, Joe Temkiewicz, Jim & Joyce Toth, and John Zaborowski. All of the maps and aerial photographs referenced in this article are available for inspection at the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road.



Sheffield Lake Community Park marina, at the head of Lake Breeze Road, under construction in December 2007. The marina includes a boat launching ramp and associated breakwaters to protect the ramp from wave action.

Society Organization

The Sheffield Village Historical Society is a charitable nonprofit 501(c)(3) and educational organization dedicated to discovering, collecting, preserving, interpreting, and presenting Sheffield's rich heritage. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to support the Society's mission.

For more information contact Eddie Herdendorf, President (440-934-1514 herdendorf@aol.com), Andy Minda, Vice President (440-537-0547 anmin36@aol.com), or Patsy Hoag, Secretary (440-934-4624 phoag@me.com).

Society journals can be found on the Village of Sheffield, Ohio official website: www.sheffieldvillage.com (click on the Sheffield Village Historical Society decal , then Pioneer newsletters, and then download). Page Layout is by Ricki C. Herdendorf, EcoSphere Associates, Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

The collections of the Sheffield Village Historical Society are housed in the Sheffield History Center at 4944 Detroit Road. The History Center is open to members and guests most Tuesdays 11:00 am-2:00 pm and Thursdays 6:00 pm-8:00 pm or by appointment—please call Kathy Yancer (216-543-3651). The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is **July 11, 2013, 7:00 pm at the History Center. All members are welcome to attend this meeting.**

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

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

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Historical Society Publications Restocked

If you haven't gotten a copy of these books they are now available for a \$20 Donation. Call 440-934-1514 to reserve a copy or pick one up at the Historical Society Fundraiser Yard Sale on May 11th and 12th at the Sheffield History Center, 4944 Detroit Road in Sheffield Village. The History Center is located just west of Bass Ford and across the street from the Nissan Dealership.

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