



SHEFFIELD BICENTENNIAL No. 8 ***—Sheffield Celebrates 200th Birthday***

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

SAINT MARK MONASTERY CHURCH ***(built in 1988—modeled after a Serbian Monastery)*** ***1434 Lake Breeze Road, Sheffield Village, Ohio***



*T*his attractive American Serbian Eastern Orthodox house of God is located on Lake Breeze Road about a mile and a half south of the Lake Erie shore. Consecrated in May 1988, it is modeled after a 600-year-old monastery near Skopje, Macedonia (formerly Yugoslavia). Prince Marko, a hero of the Serbian people, completed the Macedonian monastery in 1372. Skopje dates from Roman times and was captured by the Serbs in 1282. The city was the scene of the Stephen Dušan's coronation as czar of Serbia in 1346. A bridge over the Vardar River, named in his honor, is among the many ancient landmarks in the city. Today Skopje is a thriving trade and transportation center of nearly half a million inhabitants.

The Sheffield monastery church was designed by Serbian architect, Milojko Perisic. The architect and church leaders had a vision for the church—to *stand guard on the shores of Lake Erie for centuries, offering spiritual support*. When Milojko died as the church was being planned, Sheffield architect Roy Kudrin stepped in to supervise the construction.

Saint Mark Cemetery, located on the monastery grounds to the west of the church, was established in 1984 before the church was built. The cemetery is designed to accommodate up to 1,000 burials. Approximately 50 burials have taken place in the 30-year history of the cemetery. One of these, Vukomir Alavanja (1927-2008), was a Serbian resistance fighter during World War II and opposed Communist rule after the war. His nephew, Fr. Leontije Alavanja, now serves as pastor of Saint Mark Monastery Church.

Construction of Saint Mark Church (1987)



Saint Mark Cemetery



Sculpted bust of General Draza Mihailovic



On a visit to the impressive Saint Mark Monastery Church, in the churchyard not far from the cemetery, one is likely to encounter a finely sculpted bust of General Draza Mihailovic (1893-1946) on a black granite column. 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.

On March 29, 1948, the United States Congress and President Harry S. Truman posthumously awarded General Draza Mihailovic with the Legion of Merit for his bravery in supporting Allied forces during World War II. A likeness of the award is proudly carved into the granite column. General Mihailovic was put to death by the Communist regime in Yugoslavia after the war. 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.*

Gen. Draza Mihailovic