



Glendale Heritage Preservation Newsletter

“Preserving the Past for the Future”

From the President’s Desk

By Michelle Evans

Share your Family History Did you know that GHP has a Family File? Do you have a family tree- maybe from a family bible or from research you have done on Ancestry.com? The Family Files at GHP are the perfect place to share your family history. Simply deliver your documents to the depot or send via email to GHP@fuse.net and have your family history be a part of Glendale’s history.

Share your House’s History GHP also has a Structure File. Maybe you have old photos left to you by a previous owner, or maybe “before” and “after” pictures from a renovation or addition. Have floor plans or blueprints? An interesting story? All perfect additions to the Structure File. Add to your home’s documented history by contributing to the archives at GHP.

Share your time & Become Involved GHP offers many opportunities to become involved. Many people contribute by volunteering to staff the museum and gift shop on Thursdays and Saturdays. But there are many other opportunities to become involved. Interested in History? Volunteer with the Archiving Group or work on a special exhibit. Like to decorate? Come help with holiday decorating. Have a knack for trimming hedges? Adopt the boxwoods in front of the depot. Like to bake? Sign up to help with receptions. Would you like to be published? You can work on this newsletter. Whether you’re a “people person” or like to work “quietly behind the scenes”, the opportunities are boundless. Tell us your interest and join the fun!



COME SEE OUR LATEST EXHIBIT: *The Seasons of Glendale*, Opening September 29, 2012.

By Ariell Burrey

The Seasons of Glendale will be an art exhibit featuring photographs and stories from Officer Delow Williams. Officer Williams is the longest tenured officer with the Glendale Police Department serving 26 years and will be retiring September 15.

The exhibit consists of a collection of photographs taken by Officer Williams over the years and reflects the changing face of Glendale with the seasons. The exhibit will run through December 5, 2012.



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The GHP Newsletter is
produced by:
Bob Galbraith

**GHP Museum
Hours: Thursday &
Saturday 11am - 3pm**

Maligayang pagdating, välkommen, tervetuloa*

By Nancy Macenko

If you expected the majority of visitors to the Glendale Historic Preservation Museum to be from the village and Greater Cincinnati, you'd be partly right. A check of the guest books shows in the earliest years of its operation, when the museum was located on the second floor of the police station, most visitors signing the book were indeed from Glendale or towns a short drive away.

But by 1997, when the museum was moved to its current location in the old Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad depot, things had changed. Visitors from far outside the area were beginning to stop by. In fact, over the years we have welcomed guests from 41 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

A number of international visitors have toured the museum as well, coming from 29 countries including Ecuador, Iceland, Indonesia and Russia.

In many cases we know our guests enjoyed their experience because they included special notes and remarks after their names. Most simply wrote fabulous, cool, charming, wonderful, love it, great and awesome. Others were more poetic with Viva Glendale, vielen danke and even "neato."

But there were also sweet notes like, "You have a remarkably unique history" (Port Chester NY), "so good to see this museum in this perfect location" (Coral Gables FL) and "a lovely stop in a beautiful town" (Indonesia). Then there were some special messages including, "I like the sexy male voice on that video" (Sydney, Australia), "it was great when the train went by" (NYC) and, in a shout-out to pop rock band of the late 90s, "I love Hanson! Tay and Zac forever" (Doylestown PA).

Other than Mickey Mouse, few glittering celebrities signed our guest books unless you count Doreen Gove, Mary Stewart, Bob Trumpy and a host of Burchenals and Carruthers.

So the next time you are in our museum or any other museum for that matter take the time to sign the guest register and become part of the interesting history of that location.

*Welcome in Filipino, Swedish and Finnish



40 West Fountain: Past and Future

By Beth Sullebarger & Bob Galbraith

Known as the John H. Porter House, the imposing dwelling on two acres at 40 West Fountain Avenue has evolved dramatically since its initial construction in the mid-19th century. Until recently the house faced an uncertain future in the 21st century.

The Porter House appears to have begun as a two-story Italianate frame dwelling with a lacy front porch facing south toward Fountain Avenue. Decorative features included wide bracketed eaves, a center gable, and an angled bay on the east side. In *The Suburbs of Cincinnati: Sketches Historical and Descriptive*, published in 1870, Sidney D. Maxwell describes the property as

"one of the most beautiful in its surrounds in Glendale. The building is a two story frame cottage, with verandas on the south and east.

The lawn is the best in the village.

He [Mr. John H. Porter] has a fine conservatory, handsomely-grouped evergreens, thrifty young shade trees, and flowers in abundance."



Perhaps a bit later, a tall tower topped with a cupola was added at the northeast corner, giving it the air of an Italian Villa. Even more dramatic changes were made to suit Joseph and Eliza Pullman, most likely in the 1920s, a period of exceeding abundance. A photo of that period shows the house transformed in a sort of French Eclectic mode with a stucco exterior, slate mansard roof and leaded glass windows. The verandas were enclosed, the main entrance was relocated from the south to the east façade, and the ornate tower was reduced by the removal of the cupola. Yet inside, the elongated proportions and rectilinear trim speak to a much older house with a Greek Revival influence.



Love it or hate it, the house has adapted to the times and tastes of successive owners. Recently, the house suffered from an

extended period of decline. If you've passed this magnificent manse this spring you may have noticed that the grass

was overgrown, the landscape had gone wild, and there were significant cracks in the once pristine stucco façade. A closer look reveals water damage, crumbling plaster and buckled floors on the interior, reflecting a degree of neglect that could threaten the very existence of the structure.

* * * * *

Many residents are concerned about losing this or other landmark buildings to deterioration and “demolition by neglect” in these tough economic times. In December 2002, 40 W. Fountain went on the market for \$990,000. The house subsequently went through foreclosure, suffered burst pipes and developed roof leaks. Needing work beyond what a typical homeowner would undertake, it remained on the market until the asking price dropped to \$199,999. Fortunately, an investor purchased the property for \$165,000, and it is hoped he will restore the house to its former grandeur.

GHP members have been concerned about how to protect our heritage in houses such as this. One idea was to explore seeking donation of the property by the bank as a charitable contribution, followed by resale to a contractor or developer who is willing to invest in its repair. The Village also contacted the bank regarding the condition of the property and threatened fines if it was not maintained. The latter may have spurred the bank to lower the asking price and enter negotiations. Your thoughts and ideas about addressing the issue of abandoned or unmaintained houses in the village would be appreciated. Sales such as 40 W. Fountain don't do our property values any good and impact the tax revenue to the village. This is a problem that affects all of the residents of Glendale. Please contact GHP with any suggestions, at ghp.fuse.net or 771-1964 or 44 Village Square.

House Plaques

We would like to congratulate two more home owners who have received Plaques for their houses. Nancy Gulick, 32 North Lake Avenue, and Clyde and Margaret Cooper, 316 Cleveland Avenue.



GHP awards two types

of Plaques as a recognition of the age of the structure and the contribution that it makes to the beauty and historic character of the Village. The name on the plaque is typically the family who first lived in the house. The Victorian Era Plaque is put on houses or commercial property if the structure was built in or prior to 1901. Structures built after 1901, which are at least 100 years old, are eligible for a Centennial Plaque. Costs involved are \$50 for a deed search and \$250 for the Plaque itself. The deed search authenticates the age of the house and determines the name that will appear on the Plaque. The cost of the plaques has risen considerably in the past few years but GHP pays the cost in excess of \$250 and installs the plaque for you.

If you are interested in applying for a plaque, stop by the depot for an application (Thursdays and Saturdays 11:00 to 3:00) or contact us by email at ghp@fuse.net.

Been in the Gift Shop Lately?

The black squirrel Gift located in the GHP Museum at the old train depot is constantly updating our selection of unique Glen-orientated merchandise. lately,

Shop in

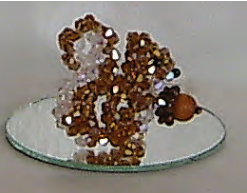
depot is seledale

If you haven't been in here are some items that you may find interesting. We have hats and shirts of various sizes



with different designs. There

are tea towels and bottle bags with the squirrel on them. A new addition is a series of miniature jeweled squirrels hand made by Don Latta.



Have a few hours to spare?

There are volunteer opportunities galore at GHP. We are an all volunteer organization dedicated to educating people about our village and preserving its history. The GHP Museum and Gift Shop is open Thursdays and Saturdays every week from 11am to 3pm and we are looking for people interested in “manning the shop”.

It's fun to meet folks and tell them about our wonderful village. And when you aren't busy with museum stuff you can read or work on your computer using the museum's wi-fi network.

Other volunteer opportunities include archiving, working our annual pancake breakfast, being a trustee or officer, producing our newsletter, creating displays and getting out the mailings.

If you are interested in any of these, please contact Sue Buescher at 771-4908 or suey.bue@gmail.com.



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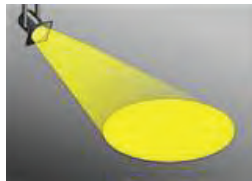
GHP Donor Spotlight

By JoAnne Goode

We would like to shine our “Donor Spotlight” on a former Glendale resident, Martha Gruber Peters. She shared with us photographs and history of her grandfather, Martin Gruber, and his family including her father Martin Steve Gruber and his siblings. A photograph of the Grubers’ house at 1043 North Greenville (c. 1940s) is included with this article as well as a photograph of the family in the back yard (1921).

According to Martha Peters, her grandfather spoke seven languages. He worked for Procter & Gamble in maintenance but also as a translator when needed. The family originally lived in Cincinnati’s Over-the-Rhine district. Mr. Gruber was legally blind and moved his family to Glendale when he learned that he could take the train from Glendale to work in Ivorydale. Mr. Gruber became friends with Mr. Procter and would often sit with him during services at Christ Church.

When Mr. Gruber first moved to Glendale, the family lived in the house at 1037 North Greenville and raised some of his seven children in that house. The family later moved next door to 1043 North Greenville. This house, thought to have



been built c. 1860s, is remembered as being only a basement and one large room. Mr. Gruber added on to it with the help of his oldest boys. According to Ms. Peters’ Aunt Frieda, who was born in 1917, there was another smaller cottage in front of the Gruber house which they rented out to a young couple. That cottage burned down. Aunt Frieda

remembered visiting with the woman who lived there - they enjoyed cooking together.

Two linden trees stand where the cottage once stood. Martin Steve Gruber planted these trees sometime in the late 1930s. Martin, who was born in 1919, and his wife Lucille also raised their family at 1043 Greenville. The house seems to have been last occupied c. 1995-1998 and underwent quite a few renovations during that time. It was razed c. 2007.



In addition to thanking Martha Peters, we also want to recognize the following for recent donations to our Archive Collection:

Sherrin Knecht
 Todd Grueninger
 Jolene Weiskittel