



# Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Fall 2020

## 1856 Presidential Election

One year after Glendale was incorporated, voters (white men only) were involved in choosing the country's next President. It kicked off on June 2, 1856, with the Democratic Party holding their national convention in Cincinnati; the first time the Democratic Convention had been held in a city other than Baltimore. They gathered in Smith and Nixon's Hall, an extension of the Smith and Nixon



Democratic National Convention in Smith & Nixon's Hall

piano and organ retail store, on the north side of Fourth Street between Main and Walnut Streets. It was attended by 296 voting delegates from the 31 states that comprised the United States at that time.

It took four days and 17 rounds of voting to select James Buchanan, a Philadelphian and the current Minister to Great Britain, as the Democratic candidate for President. He defeated the sitting President, Franklin Pierce, for the party's



James Buchanan

nomination. This nomination defeat of a sitting President had never happened before, and has never happened since. As you can guess, Pierce was not a popular President with the Democrats. As was the custom in those days, none of the four Democratic candidates campaigned for the nomination. In fact, they weren't even present for the conclusion of the convention.

The other major parties held their conventions in Philadelphia (the Republicans), and New York (the American Party). The Republican Party, formed just two years earlier in 1854, nominated John Frémont, a Californian. The American Party nominated a former President, Millard Fillmore, who held the position from 1850 to 1853. Both the Republicans and the American Party were formed from the break-up of the Whig Party. It was the first time that these parties had contested a Presidential election.

Leading up to the election the three parties established their positions on the major issues, but the overwhelming issue of the day was each party's position on slavery. The Republican slogan was "Free speech, free press, free soil, Frémont and victory." The Democrats supported slavery and warned that a Republican win would lead to civil war. The American Party claimed they were the only "national party" because Democrats favored the south and Republicans favored the north.

November 4 was election day. Hamilton County, a Democratic stronghold, voted for Buchanan with a small majority. Ohio, with a strong showing in the north, gave the Republican Frémont the majority vote. But, in the end, it was Buchanan who carried the day with 19 out of 31 states and 45% of the popular vote. He became the 15<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and, at his inauguration, committed to serving only one term. His presidency brought the United States to the brink of civil war.

*Submitted by Martin Sinnott.*

### **Officers**

Dr. James Brewer, President  
Carolyn Beaugrand, Vice President  
Susan Swaine, Vice President  
Ralph Hoop, Treasurer  
Jane Pratt, Secretary

### **Trustees**

Maureen Base-Smith  
Roxann Dieffenbach  
Joe Dubinski  
Michelle G. Evans  
Nancy Floyd  
Peter Galbraith  
Joanne Goode  
Doreen Gove  
Mary Lofty  
Nancy Macenko  
Rob Morgan  
Carol Muntz  
Bev Rieckhoff  
Martin Sinnott  
Judy Skillingstad  
Carl Stritzel  
Beth Sullebarger  
Rebecca Terrell  
Jim Wesselman

### **Trustees Emeritus**

Addison Clipson  
Howard Constable  
Peg Shardelow

### **Founder**

Doreen Gove

### **Archivist**

Joanne Goode

### **Gift Shop Manager**

Bev Rieckhoff

### **Newsletter Editor**

Martin Sinnott

Museum and Gift Shop Open  
Thursday and Saturday, 11 to 3

**[www.glendaleheritage.org](http://www.glendaleheritage.org)**

**facebook: @glendaleheritagepreservation**

**email: GHP@fuse.net**

**telephone: (513) 771-8722**

## **Glendale's Building Plaques**

As part of Glendale Historic District's nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, 59 pivotal buildings were individually described. Among them were six houses of worship, and seven civic and commercial buildings. The remaining 46 buildings were homes representing a variety of architectural styles and built between the years 1851 and 1884. Forty-eight of these buildings have a plaque on them, which indicates the original owner and the year the building was built.

After these initial plaques were installed, proud homeowners of many of our other historic homes wanted a plaque to commemorate the historical provenance of their homes. Thus Glendale's plaque program, sponsored by Glendale Heritage Preservation, was born.

Criteria were established to determine whether a home qualified for a plaque. Homes built in 1901 or earlier and within the Historic District would receive a Historic District plaque, and be known as Contributing Structures. Homes built after 1901 and at least one hundred years old would receive a Centennial House plaque. Determining original ownership and the year built is done by Glendale Heritage Preservation through researching Hamilton County records, and often requires some detective work. Census records are also a good source of information.

Since the inception of the plaque program, 52 plaques have been installed on Contributing Structures and ten plaques on Centennial Houses. A new feature on the Glendale Heritage Preservation website ([glendaleheritage.org](http://glendaleheritage.org)) includes a listing of all the structures that have received a plaque, with a link to information in the archives about the structure. Clicking on "House Plaques" under the "Research" tab on the website home page will take you to the list.

You can also download the form from the website to request a deed search and plaque. The initial cost for the deed search is \$50. Once the research verifies that the house qualifies for a plaque there is an additional contribution of \$325 for the manufacture, placement and installation of the plaque.

*Submitted by Joe Dubinski*

## Votes for Women

In late October of 1914, Mrs. Thomas Carruthers (Reba) entertained more than fifty women in her home. They were all supporters of the suffrage movement. The *Cincinnati Enquirer* reported on November 1, 1914, that “Miss Frances Eckstein, an ardent suffragist, had celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday the day before. When baby Helen Carruthers, the youngest of the home, was put into the lady’s arms the hostess announced that here were the oldest and youngest suffragists in Glendale.”\*

It was 100 years ago that the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was ratified, giving women across America the right to vote. It was a journey that took over 70 years and was met with pushback from many places. Even the suffragists did not all agree on how to go about gaining their rights, and who to include. Some groups were more radical, while others believed that behaving politely was the best way to make change. Many groups were not inclusive, while others believed that it was their duty to include Black women.

Cincinnati had a large anti-suffrage movement that included not only men but women of privilege and wealth who believed that women were better off without the vote. The “antis” had many reasons for not supporting suffrage. Many believed that women could affect change by belonging to clubs and social work organizations instead of by voting. This belief ignored the plight of the working woman, however. Brewers and distillers were one of the largest groups lobbying against women obtaining the vote, as it was believed that women would vote for prohibition. Religious beliefs were often a reason and, of course, sometimes it was just sexism.

Even those who believed that women deserved the right to vote faced problems of getting their message across in a unified manner. By the 1870s there were more than 31 independent woman’s suffrage groups in Ohio, but they did not work together at all. It was not until 1885 that the Ohio Woman’s Suffrage Association was founded to try to bring forth a more cohesive message. However, in trying to avoid partisanship, the OWSA only focused on local and state barriers to voting.

Luckily, this infighting and disorganization doesn’t seem to have discouraged many of Glendale’s influential women. Combing through early-20<sup>th</sup>-

century newspapers, we begin to see a few women taking part in the suffrage movement.

Mrs. Charles McLean (Sallie) was one of the earliest Glendalians working in support of suffrage. She attended the 21<sup>st</sup> annual convention of the Ohio Woman’s Suffrage Association in 1906, traveled as a state delegate to the National Woman’s Suffrage Convention in 1908, and appears in the member lists of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Club and the Susan B. Anthony Club. It is Sallie who first appears in the columns of the *Cincinnati Enquirer and Post*, but when seeing what widespread support there was in the community just eight years later, it is likely that she was not the only one – just the most visible. So many of the early suffragists have been lost to history. For every Susan B. Anthony or Elizabeth Cady Stanton, there are five Frances Ecksteins.

In 1914 the suffrage movement really took off in Glendale. There were suffrage meetings and teas taking place in Glendale on a monthly basis, if not more often. Speakers appeared at the Glendale College Club telling young women not to lose hope and that real change takes patience. There were town hall meetings highlighting nationally known suffrage speakers. Mrs. Charles Benedict (Ella), Mrs. Charles Blinn (Mary), Mrs. Alfred Allen (Hannah) and Mrs. L.K. Shepherd (Eugenia) hosted events that were attended by women whose family names we still see around our community: Giauque, Keys, Rogan, Matthews and more. As time marched on the meetings continued, albeit less often during WWI when the focus of Glendale’s women changed to other, more pressing issues.

As we prepare for an election this fall, please take a few minutes to reflect on the importance of having the right to vote. Those that came before us fought for that right, whether by marching or speaking or raising funds. When you walk into the polls this November, or as you drop your ballot into the mail, spare a thought for Frances Eckstein and Sallie McLean and the other residents of Glendale who fought for your ability to do this.

*Submitted by Jill Beitz*

Watch the video “Life Experiences of Glendale Woman Before Suffrage” on the “Glendale Heritage Preservation” YouTube channel.





44 Village Square  
Glendale OH 45246

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Permit No. 3478

## Black Squirrel Gift Shop

Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum's Black Squirrel Gift Shop has mugs and women's t-shirts to accompany the Women of Glendale exhibit. Access to the Black Squirrel Gift Shop is currently affected by the restricted museum opening times. In the meantime, items in the Black Squirrel Gift Shop associated with the exhibit can be ordered by contacting [beverly.riekhoff@yahoo.com](mailto:beverly.riekhoff@yahoo.com) for local delivery with payment by check or cash.



Mugs for \$12 each



¾-length sleeve ladies t-shirts (M/L/XL) for \$20 each