



# Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Winter 2020 - 2021

## When Did The Old Depot Burn?

The Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton (CH&D) Railroad was the catalyst for the development of Glendale. By the time its first train ran on September 18, 1851, Glendale was already at the planning stage.

CH&D published an annual report in May each year starting in 1850. Many of these reports now reside at the University of Michigan and have been digitized on [HathiTrust.org](https://www.hathiitrust.org/). Using these reports, we can identify specific events that relate to Glendale.

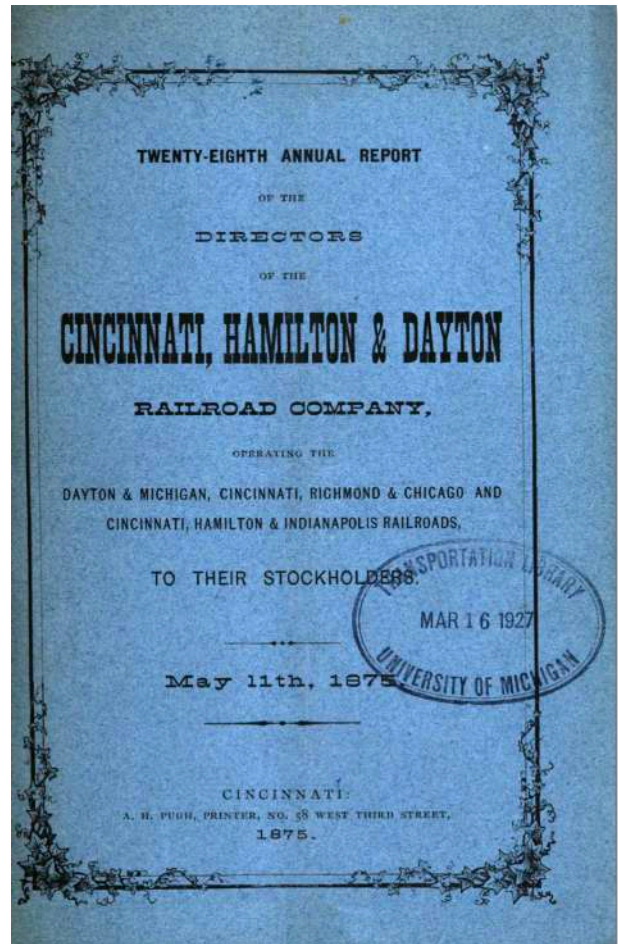
The 1852 report states “Wood sheds 30 x 150 feet have been put up at Dayton, Glendale, and Cumminsville...” These sheds housed the wood used in the engine’s firebox.

One year later, the 1853 report states “During the year passenger and freight houses have been completed at Lockland, Glendale, Jones, Trenton...” This is the first mention of a passenger depot building in Glendale.

Jumping ahead 22 years to the 1875 report, it states “On the afternoon of Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1874, Passenger Depot at Glendale took Fire in the roof and was burned down. Fire is supposed to have originated from a spark from passing Engine. A temporary depot was made by fixing up and painting small Freight Depot. A new and suitable Depot should be erected this year.”

A new depot clearly wasn’t built that year because a year later the 1876 report states “The passenger depot at Glendale which was burned a year ago last September, will also be re-built.”

Unfortunately, the CH&D’s 1877 report no longer exists but all is not lost. The Commissioner of Railroads and Telegraph of Ohio also published an



annual report. Its 1877 report, also published in May, lists a payment “Rebuilding depot at Glendale, burned August 27, 1874.....\$4,468.02”.

In recent times, it was commonly thought the depot burned in 1879 and was rebuilt in 1880. These records tell a different story. The depot burned five years earlier on August 27, 1874 and was rebuilt some time between May, 1876 and May, 1877. So the new depot was already there to witness the conflagration that destroyed the other side of the village square in 1880.

*Submitted by Martin Sinnott*

### **Founder**

Doreen D. Gove

### **Officers**

Dr. James Brewer, President  
Carolyn Beaugrand, Vice President  
Martin Sinnott, Vice President  
Helene Sedwick, Treasurer  
Jill Beitz, 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  
Jane Pratt  
Bev Rieckhoff  
Judy Skyllingstad  
Carl Stritzel  
Beth Sullebarger  
Susan Swaine  
Rebecca Terrell  
Jim Wesselman

### **Trustees Emeriti**

Addison Clipson  
Howard Constable  
Peg Shardelow

### **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**

## **Jack Bauer 1937 - 2020, Glendale Heritage Preservation and Glendale Hero**

In 1995, when the village secured the old Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton depot from CSX and rented it to Glendale Heritage Preservation for its museum, archives and gift shop. Council member Jack Bauer stepped forward to lead the renovation effort as construction manager.

Peggy Shardelow, then president of Glendale Heritage Preservation, remembers Jack as highly professional and multitalented. "He knew his mission and was not daunted by the scope of the depot renovation or his unskilled volunteer workers. At the end of almost two years, he still had energy to spare and still had his incredible sense of humor."

Jack took the 1877 depot from the edge of destruction to a fully functional, renovated building using his knowledge of structures and systems, his contacts in the construction community and the enthusiastic, if untrained, Glendale Heritage Preservation volunteers, whom he taught and inspired every weekend for well over a year.



*Jack Bauer, fifth from the left, with his volunteer crew*

When Jack retired from his 43-year career at General Electric Aircraft Engines, he went on to work at two golf courses. He ended up in Venice, Florida, where he was responsible for the renovation of the old Venice/Seaboard Railroad train depot and the Lord-Heigle house, soon to be a museum.

Jack passed away in Venice, Florida, on July 29th at age 82.

*Submitted by Jack Buescher*

## Growing Up and Old in Glendale

Helen (Nellie) Kemper Blinn was born on July 20, 1833 to Charles A.B. Kemper and his wife, Judith. Helen's father was the youngest of 16 children fathered by the Reverend James Kemper, Cincinnati's first minister. James Kemper and his wife originally settled in Cincinnati in 1791. You can visit their original cabin which is now located in Heritage Village at Sharon Woods. When Nellie was two years old, her family moved to a farm in the area that would eventually become Glendale.

While Nellie lived a fairly ordinary life for her time, her memories and letters provide a glimpse into life in the 19th century. In a 1909 article, she reminisces about the Underground Railroad in Glendale, telling the reporter, "Right over there is where the Underground Railroad came out, and there - you can only just see the roof on account of the foliage - but that is the "Eliza House" of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel."

At 17, Nellie attended the Oxford Female Institute (now part of Miami University), and it looks like she made the most of the experience. In addition to her studies, she attended debates about the Fugitive Slave Law, corresponded with family about *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and wrote to her grandmother about missionary work among the Indians.

After returning to her childhood home, Nellie refers to herself as an old maid, but love is on the horizon. As the Civil War rages on, Nellie and a distant cousin named Amory Blinn become aware of each other through mutual acquaintances. In February of 1864, Amory writes to Nellie from Terre Haute, Indiana, saying "I've heard so much about you." She replies in a self-deprecating manner, and their letters take off from there. A few months later Amory enlists and is assigned to the Indiana 133rd in Bridgeport, Alabama. In early August, Nell writes "Forest (sic) gave you quite a scare didn't he, but I think you were pretty well prepared to meet him - he certainly would not have left as well as he came. Morgan passed nearby but couldn't get to us because the road over the railroad was closed down for repairs - we do not cease to be thankful that we escaped as we did." Nellie seems to be speaking of Nathan Bedford Forrest who was fighting for the Confederacy near Amory, and comparing it to her own "almost" run-in with Morgan's Raiders when they came through Glendale the previous summer.

As the war comes to an end, it appears that Amory and Nell have had some discussion of marriage but want to get to know one another better. Amory writes in one letter about his views on women, "There are many that consider that a woman has no such exalted course in life. Indeed, that her sphere is very limited, quite domestic... yet I think all the branches of art, science and industry should be open to her. I think there are many branches of business occupied almost exclusively by men that might more appropriately be filled by women." This seems like an important pronouncement because Nell was fairly independent throughout the course of her life.

In 1866, both 33, they marry. Nell stays in Glendale with her parents while Amory travels throughout Indiana selling life insurance. Their first daughter is born in 1867, and a son soon follows. They struggle to pay their bills, but eventually have their own home at 440 E. Sharon and three more children. It seems like things are looking up, but fate intervenes.

In February of 1880, Amory dies of an illness. Helen is left alone with five children and limited means as Amory had left her with some debts. 1880 continues to be an especially difficult year, as a fire decimated the Village Square in May, and shortly thereafter a tornado went through Glendale, damaging the Blinn's home. W. H. Babbitt wrote to Nellie, "Very serious times in Glendale (sic) you of late. First the fire, then the whirlwinds . . . The church building is badly damaged . . . Sorry to hear your home will require considerable repair."

Nonetheless, Nell persevered and lived in Glendale until her death in 1920. Her children and grandchildren were active in the village well into the 20th century. The Blinn family is just one of many that helped to make Glendale the place that it is today.

Resources:

**Blinn Family Papers**, 1787-1955, n.d., Mss B648, Cincinnati Museum Center

**The Pioneer Women of Cincinnati and Vicinity. Mrs. Helen Blinn.** Cincinnati Commercial Gazette July 18, 1909

*Submitted by Jill Beitz*

## Jill Beitz, New GHP Trustee

Jill Beitz was recently elected to the Glendale Heritage Board of Trustees, and will be taking over the role of Secretary from Jane Pratt in 2021. Here is Jill's introduction of herself:

I grew up in the greater Cincinnati area and have lived here most of my life except for a few years in Illinois.

I have always been a history nerd, and Glendale has so much fascinating history that needs to be shared and studied. I was a public librarian for most of my career, but last year was lucky enough to land a job as the Manager of Reference and Research at the Cincinnati History Library and Archives, part of the Cincinnati Museum Center.



I remember eating peanut butter and jelly crepes at the Grand Finale as a child. Who knew that, as an adult, I would get engaged there? When Tim and I decided that we wanted to downsize, Glendale was the place that we wanted to live. We bought our home on Oak Avenue at the end of 2012 and after some renovations, moved in. Living here has been even better than we imagined.

I am so excited to be a trustee of Glendale Heritage Preservation and look forward to working hard to share the wonders of Glendale with others.

## New Additions

The Glendale Heritage Preservation website [GlendaleHeritage.org](http://GlendaleHeritage.org) now has two new sections: Tour and Shop. You can use Tour on your smart phone as a guide to walking the streets of historic Glendale. Shop will allow you to order items from the Black Squirrel Gift Shop.

Two videos: "Historic Glendale - The Living Village" and "Women of Glendale" are now available on the Glendale Heritage Preservation's YouTube channel. Search YouTube for *Glendale Heritage Preservation* or click on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPie5sBzn4mCRmGvX98lpmg>.

## Helene Sedwick, New GHP Trustee

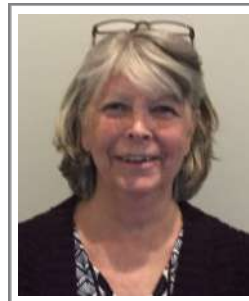
Helene Sedwick was recently elected to the Glendale Heritage Board of Trustees, and will be taking over the role of Treasurer from Ralph Hoop in 2021. Here is Helene's introduction of herself:

My husband and I moved to Glendale just three years ago, but we have been familiar with the village and with Glendale Heritage Preservation for many years.

When P&G first brought us to Cincinnati in 1980, we joined Christ Church Glendale. Over the years, I have served the church on several commissions and committees, am a former Senior Warden, and still sing in the choir.

I retired from my career as a mental health counselor and administrator when Bill was transferred to Germany in 1999. Living abroad was a wonderful two-year experience, but I missed being involved in a local community. I grew up in a small town, and I also missed that sense of

community in our previous Cincinnati homes.



Chairing the church's Sesquicentennial Committee in 2015 strengthened my interest in Glendale's history and introduced me to Glendale Heritage Preservation's wonderful archives. When

we decided to downsize and found the perfect smaller house in Carruthers Pond, volunteering at the Depot was a natural choice.

I must confess I have absolutely no previous experience as treasurer for any organization, but I enjoy learning new skills and know I can rely on the support and advice of the former treasurer and of the entire board. Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility! I am excited to get started.

**Correction:** In the fall issue of Heritage News, the picture accompanying the article "1856 Presidential Election" was not Smith & Nixon's Hall. It was Music Hall's main hall with the Hook & Hastings organ at the far end, probably from the 1880 Democratic National Convention.