



Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Fall 2021

Glendale Cemetery Renamed Oak Hill

On July 8, 1909 Charles Heinig of New York announced, in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, a new cemetery was coming to Cincinnati. It was to be called Glendale Cemetery and built on the Cochran farm's 212 acres, nine of which were in Glendale. The report said work on landscaping the cemetery would start the following week.

According to Heinig, Glendale Cemetery was to be the first "street car cemetery" in Cincinnati. He planned an extension to the Mill Valley streetcar line to take it farther along Congress Avenue, from Sharon Avenue to the entrance of the cemetery. The streetcar would be black and contain the casket, in front, and up to 60 mourners. The cemetery was to have a chapel with seating for 200 people just inside the entrance.

The Glendale Cemetery Company, of which Heinig was President, had been formed two months earlier by Heinig and three other businessmen from the cities of Cleveland and Detroit. Heinig arranged to be paid by the Company for the Cochran farm in stock, cash and bonds worth \$240,996. It was later alleged that Heinig did not own the farm at the time but only an option to purchase it for \$30,323.

Five years later, and after Heinig had stepped away from the company, litigation was filed in the Common Pleas Court, on March 25, 1914. The Glendale Cemetery Company sued Heinig to recover the amounts paid to him. The Company claimed that Heinig controlled the other company founders and they acted for his benefit.

By July of that year, the Glendale Cemetery Company had filed for insolvency citing "financial complications and threatened litigation." Since 1909, it had accumulated an operating loss of \$104,939.

But that wasn't the end of it, Heinig had received loans from two banks in Indianapolis worth \$8,500, secured by bonds in the Glendale Cemetery Company. In November, the banks, keen to recover the value of the bonds, named the Company as the defendant in involuntary bankruptcy proceeding in Federal Court.

Over the following two years of court activity, Heinig was ordered to pay \$200,946 to the Glendale Cemetery Company. At the time, it was a record amount for a local court. Consequently, the Company was declared to be bankrupt.

As part of the bankruptcy judgment, a new company called the Oak Hill Cemetery Company was formed on December 12, 1916, to assume the assets of the Glendale Cemetery Company for a payment of \$17,000. Thus, the Oak Hill Cemetery was born out of the remains of the Glendale Cemetery Company.



Today, you can still see the vestiges of the Glendale Cemetery in the entrance gates made by the Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati. The interlocking letters G and C form the center piece of each of the two main gates. On one of the columns, on which the gates hang, is the name of its successor Oak Hill.

Submitted by Martin Sinnott

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Glendale Heritage Preservation's Annual Meeting, November 9, 2021

Join us at 7 PM on November 9 in Christ Church's All Saints Hall for Glendale Heritage Preservation's annual meeting. After a short business meeting there will be a presentation on Harriet Beecher Stowe's life in Cincinnati given by the Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, Christina Hartlieb.

Harriet Beecher Stowe, as the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin, probably needs no introduction. She moved to Cincinnati when she was 21. It was here that she met her husband Calvin Stowe and became involved in the anti-slavery movement.



But, where did she write Uncle Tom's Cabin? This and other questions will be answered in Christina Hartlieb's presentation on Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Time Is Growing Short

Time is growing short to experience the Women of Glendale exhibit for the first time, or in a return visit. The exhibit will close on October 23, 2021.



We invite you to stop by our museum to learn about these remarkable women who changed our hearts, lives and community between 1855 and 2000. You might even bring your children and grandchildren. Let them see the difference these Glendale women made - and how we are all the better for them.

Freedom Bound: Eliza Harris's Escape North

The Underground Railroad, just like the “overground” railroad, is an integral part of Glendale’s heritage. The Underground Railroad, a network of people, routes and safe houses that enslaved people used to escape to freedom, is a difficult history to document. This network did not look for recognition and rarely recorded their experiences of aiding freedom seekers as they escaped north to Canada. Secrecy of the routes and those involved was essential to success.

The Fugitive Slave Acts of 1793 and 1850 required escaped enslaved peoples to be returned to their owners even if they were found in a free state. Those supporting the Underground Railroad felt these laws, particularly the requirement that they assist in freedom-seekers’ capture, were unjust. These laws also made it difficult for free Blacks to find security and safety because they too lived under the threat of being captured and sold South. Without documentation and a strong network of people who could attest to their status as free, they could have their freedom taken from them. Even with papers and a network, free Blacks could still be kidnapped and sold into slavery.

States like Indiana and Ohio were instrumental in the development of an Underground Railroad system. Pockets of sympathetic free Black and white settlements throughout these states supported freedom-seekers as they came north. Proximity to Kentucky, a state where slavery was legal, meant Indiana and Ohio were attractive to enslaved Black people escaping over the Ohio River. The Indiana and Ohio corridor is the shortest overland distance from the Ohio River to Canada in the north.

Eliza Harris, along with her child, were two of thousands enslaved in Kentucky who escaped hoping to find freedom somewhere north of the Ohio River. Eliza and her child fled in the winter of 1838 to Canada where she found a life of freedom. Her journey sheds light on the experience of escaping slavery by relying on the Underground Railroad to provide aid and sustenance on the dangerous and arduous journey north. Her story also reflects the lack of documentation about these experiences. It shows how the lack of definitive

evidence has enabled many locations in both Ohio and Indiana to claim a connection to Eliza. While she cannot have physically journeyed to all of the places that claim Eliza as a traveler, these many claims by places in Indiana and Ohio speak clearly to the importance of her story. Her story also helps us understand the many more men, women, and children, whose names we do not know, but who, like Eliza, fought their way north to freedom along the Underground Railroad.

A virtual tour, curated by The Levi and Catharine Coffin State Historic Site in Fountain City, Indiana, is available through Glendale Heritage Preservation’s website glendaleheritage.org by selecting “Tour”. It will take you to several places in Ohio and Indiana that claim a connection to Eliza’s journey, including Glendale’s Eliza House.



The tour begins, however, with one of the most important novels of the nineteenth century, Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*, which helped white Americans better understand the horrors of enslavement and the risks enslaved peoples took when fleeing the law and their owners. A fictionalized version of Eliza Harris’s experiences is a part of Stowe’s novel. It provides the basis for much of what is known about her today.

Submitted by Joanna E. Hahn, Central Region Director, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites



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200 Member Goal Reached

This year, as membership chair, I decided to set some goals with an eye towards giving focus while measuring progress in growth for Glendale Heritage Preservation. The primary goal was to meet last year's membership of 183 households, the highest number since I became a trustee four years ago. Last year, with the forced closure of events and exhibitions due to the pandemic, maintaining that number seemed an impossibility. However, with new procedures in place, we managed to successfully meet that goal! With that success, a new goal was set for getting 200 members to sign up, something not achieved since 2014.

We can now proudly say that 200 members are on our roster, and we have YOU to thank, as you all made this possible. Your belief in our mission statement and endeavors has moved us forward. Thank you, you all deserve a pat on the back!

Having an affinity for numbers, I thought it might be interesting to break down the membership numerically.

- Twenty percent of Glendale households are members of our organization.
- Ten of our total memberships are non-residents of Glendale.
- Thirty-nine percent of members donated above stated membership dues, donating an average of \$50 extra .
- We have twenty-four brand new memberships this year.
- We welcomed back sixty-seven lapsed members.

We welcome all of you, your generous donations and are thankful to count you as a sustaining, new or former supporter. Thank you to our now established 200 members.

Submitted by Carolyn Beaugrand