



Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Winter 2022 - 2023

Finding Mrs. Procter's Electric Car

Ted Pollard's memories of growing up in Glendale were featured in the summer 2022 edition of Heritage News. In his article, he told the following story about Mrs. Procter and an electric car.

"One spring day around 1939-1941, an elderly lady stopped her buggy-like automobile in the street in front of my father's deli and motioned for my mother in the store to come outside. They were acquainted with each other because my mother as a teenager had served occasionally as babysitter to some members of the Procter family.

I watched my mother go outside and greet the driver of the car, Mrs. Jane Eliza Procter, the wife of William Cooper Procter, who at the time was president of P&G. About

10 minutes later my mother, Edna Pollard, returned - in the driver's seat - and came back inside the

store to tell me and my father, George, 'Mrs. Procter wanted to show me her new car, and she let me drive it around the block. It's an electric car.'"



This story led to a series of events that resulted in locating the car Mrs. Procter drove on that day Ted wrote about. Firstly, your Heritage News editor located a photo in Glendale Heritage Preservation's archives of Mrs. Procter driving the electric car and sent it to Ted. On receiving it, Ted wondered if anyone could identify what type of car it was.

After poring over photos of vintage electric cars on the Internet, the chance of identifying the car seemed remote.

As luck would have it, around the same time, your editor was viewing photos of Christmas he spent in Venice, Florida, a year ago. Memories of the vacation's activities came flooding back. One in particular was a visit to the Sarasota Car Museum. A photo from the visit showed an electric car bought by a wealthy businessman in Cincinnati. Could this be the same type of car or was this, in fact, THE car? It looked identical in design. By a stroke of luck, not only was there a photo of the car but also one of the sign alongside of it.



According to the sign, the car was a Rauch and Lang Victoria Convertible. It was bought in 1912 and has remained in the same family ever since. The original purchaser was Alexander Johnston, and the car is now owned by his great-grandson who lives in Clearwater Beach, Florida.

Further research identified the Cincinnati businessman, Alexander Johnston, as a Glendale resident who lived on Albion Avenue. It turns out he was the brother-in-law of Mrs. Procter and the father of Miss Mary Johnston, who was also known for driving the electric car around Glendale. I think we can safely say this is the same car Mrs. Procter drove when she picked up Ted's mother.

Submitted by Martin Sinnott

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Black Squirrel Award - Joanne Goode

Joanne Goode has been a member, trustee, archivist and president of Glendale Heritage Preservation during the last 20 years. It is for her outstanding service to Glendale Heritage Preservation that she was awarded The Black Squirrel Award by President Martin Sinnott at the annual meeting held on November 8.



Glendale Heritage Preservation's archive, managed by Joanne and her committee members, now contains approximately 2,000 photographs, 700 papers, 300 objects, 100 maps and blueprints, and 1,000 family files. They are cataloged, indexed and stored in the train depot and in off-site storage for anyone to access. Online access is readily available through GlendaleHeritage.org/research.

The citation on the Black Squirrel Award reads: *Joanne Goode, who through her education, experience and considerable knowledge became archivist of the Glendale Heritage Preservation collections and brought them up to date by cataloging thousands of items, allowing online access, establishing off-site storage to maximize museum space. She also generously served as president for a term and as a trustee guiding Glendale Heritage Preservation for more than 20 years.*

The presentation given at the annual meeting by Steve Albert on Glendale philanthropist Mary E. Johnston's art collection drew heavily on the information located in the archives, along with support from Joanne. You can see the culmination of his research in the presentation on Glendale Heritage Preservation's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/d09rfk9pxyc>.

Thank you, Joanne, for your outstanding service to Glendale Heritage Preservation.

“Miss Mary”, Philanthropist and Art Collector, Comes Alive

On November 8, Steve Albert treated the attendees of the Glendale Heritage Preservation’s annual meeting to an engaging presentation titled “The Saga of Glendale Philanthropist, Mary E. Johnston’s Art Collection.” “Miss Mary,” as she was known in the Glendale community, was presented as an accidental heiress, a great philanthropist, a lifelong student of art, and a sophisticated art collector. It was appropriately held at Christ Church, of which Miss Johnston was a longtime member and contributor. A video of the presentation can be found on the Glendale Heritage Preservation’s YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/d09rfk9pxyc>



Vincent Van Gogh “Undergrowth with Two Figures” (1890)

An Accidental Procter & Gamble Heiress. Mr. Albert explained that the source of Miss Mary’s wealth was happenstance and acquired from her aunt and uncle. That uncle being the future third-generation President and Chairman of Procter & Gamble, William Cooper Procter. Since the Procters had no children, they assumed the role of doting rich aunt and uncle - to the delight of Mary and her sister (Mrs. Margaret Johnston Sawyer).

Early Art Instruction. Mary’s high school, the National Cathedral School in Washington D.C., had a noteworthy arts program, led by the accomplished artist and educator, Lola Sleeth. Mrs. Sleeth likely lectured about the history of artists such as Henri Matisse, Paul Cezanne, Pierre Bonnard, and Jean (Hans) Arp who studied at the Académie Julian in Paris, at which she too had studied. Mr. Albert argued that Miss Mary’s early appreciation of these artists might have led to their inclusion in her art collection, which she bequeathed to the Cincinnati Art Museum upon her death in 1967.

First Visit to Paris. Mr. Albert cast Miss Mary as growing into a modern 20th-Century woman. Mary

would make her first trip to Paris in 1909 at the age of 19. The city’s skyline was then dominated by the modern and imposing Eiffel Tower, and its art studios were developing new genres by artists such as Pablo Picasso, George Braque, Juan Gris and Amedeo Modigliani, all of whom would be represented in her collection.

Ongoing Connection to France. Mary returned to France in 1916 as a nurse during World War I. Mr. Albert delighted the audience by presenting a photograph from the Glendale Heritage Preservation archives showing Mary with Roland W. Richardson (also from Glendale) next to his biplane. Lieutenant Richardson was in France at the same time, training to become a pilot for the predecessor of today’s US Air Force.

Negotiating Prowess. The audience was treated to an account of Mary as a shrewd negotiator when purchasing art. Mr. Albert brought to life her negotiations with an experienced international art dealer for the purchase of the Van Gogh (illustrated opposite), along with a Picasso, for a substantial discount to each work’s list price. She was loyal to her dealers, but she was also frugal—stretching her dollars to the maximum, ultimately for the benefit of the Cincinnati modern art community.

Mr. Albert opined that Miss Mary was distinguished from other wealthy collectors. She built her collection by relying on her own eye, meeting the artists, attending cutting-edge gallery openings, and visiting artists’ studios, occasionally buying directly from the artists.

Legacy Beyond Art. The presentation concluded by touching on some of Miss Mary’s philanthropic work for the benefit of Christ Episcopal Church, the Community of the Transfiguration, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, the University of Cincinnati’s Jane Procter School of Nursing, and the National Cathedral School, where her early appreciation of art might have started.

Ongoing. Mr. Albert expressed an interest in continuing research on Miss Mary’s history and legacy for the benefit of Glendale Heritage Preservation. He invites interested members of the community to contact stevedalbert@gmail.com, as he informally archives and collects source materials such as photographs, letters, stories and memories of the accomplishments of this thoroughly modern 20th-Century woman. *Submitted by Steve Albert*

Elizabeth Carroll-Oldiges, New Trustee

My family moved to Glendale in 1957 to a home by the Glendale Athletic Field. Both my husband Larry and I grew up here and met in the 1st grade at Saint Gabriel School. We live just two houses away from where my grandparents lived from 1953 until their death in 1976.

We continue to be active with the Saint Gabriel Community; our great-grandson is the 4th consecutive generation to attend Saint Gabriel School. My father, John Carroll, was an employee of the Village of Glendale for many years.



I retired in January 2020 from Synchrony Bank after 36 years. Larry and I take great pride in our lifelong roots in Glendale. The friends we grew up with here and the memories that were made are priceless.

Cameron O'Riley, New Trustee

The Rev. Cameron O'Riley is a Georgia native who relocated to Ohio in 2016. A former social worker/mental health provider turned priest, she has a B.S.



in Psychology from Shorter College, an M.Ed. in Guidance and Counseling from State University of West Georgia, and finally an M.Div. in Theology from the School of Theology at the University of the South.

Cameron joined the staff of Christ Church Glendale in the spring of 2022 as their Associate Rector. She grew up watching *This Old House* with her father, and is thrilled to currently reside in Glendale's "Courteous Conductors Cottage" along with her feline companion Gus.

Betty Robertson, New Trustee

Ohio has been my home since the 1980s. I was delighted to discover Glendale and began learning about its rich history from Virginia Galbraith at the first Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum.

The warm sense of "Community" I have always felt in Glendale is a pleasant reminder of my small town upbringing in Nebraska.



I received a Business Administration degree at the University of Nebraska and, later on, earned a J.D. degree. For many years, I worked as the Practice Manager for a group of physicians.

Pre-pandemic, I had retired and was enjoying extensive overseas travel to experience and learn about other cultures and their histories—particularly those in developing countries.

As a member and volunteer, I have supported Glendale Heritage Preservation since 1988, and I am looking forward to serving as a Trustee.

Rohit Sharma, New Trustee

I have been a member of the Glendale community since 2004. My formal engagement with community organizations started a few years later helping the *Glendale Community Library*. I have served on the *Harry Whiting Community Center Board* since 2016, and treasurer from 2018 to summer of 2021.



I am a technology professional, having been educated in India and the University of Cincinnati. I love spending time outdoors, and I am most likely to be spotted riding my bicycle around the area. I am eager to help Glendale Heritage Preservation with its mission.