



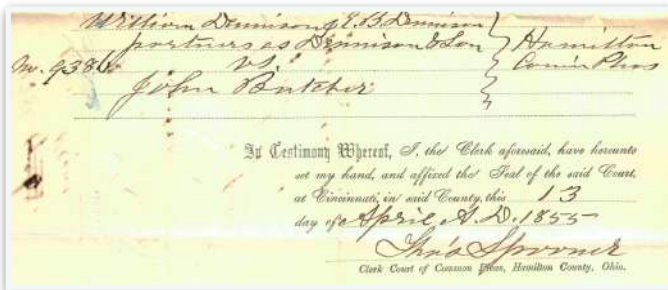
# Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Spring 2023

## Discovering Thomas Spooner

In 1884, a riot and subsequent fire destroyed the Hamilton County Court House and all its records. Or did it? Until recently it was assumed that all records prior to the riot had been lost in the fire. Then a search in 2022 by Hamilton County Clerk of Courts Central Division Manager Jason Alexander found a cache of records predating the infamous riot and fire. It is thought that they may have been stored in a safe at the time of the fire and subsequently filed away and forgotten.

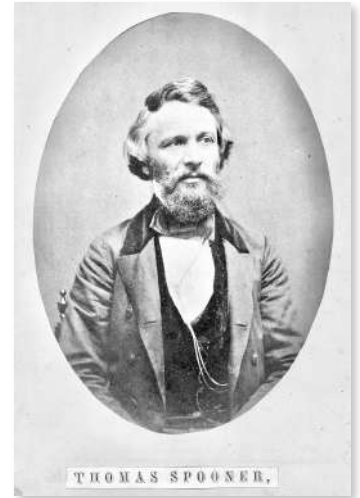
The oldest of these records dates back to 1849. To everyone's surprise, one of them, dated April 13, 1855, is signed by Thomas Spooner, the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for Hamilton County. At the



time of the discovery, the current Clerk of Courts administration had no record of Thomas Spooner ever serving as Clerk of Courts. It turns out he was elected to the position in 1854 and served for three years.

From 1879 until he died, Thomas Spooner (1817-1890) was a resident of Glendale. He lived at 110 Sharon Avenue in a house built in 1852 by Samuel Fosdick. The building's Glendale Heritage Preservation plaque calls it the Fosdick Spooner House. It is considered to be one of the village's pivotal and oldest houses.

Thomas Spooner held several other significant public offices after serving as Clerk of Courts. With the passage of the Internal Revenue Law in 1862, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Thomas Spooner to the position of Collector of the First District of Ohio. In 1866, he was promoted to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the United States.



Five years after moving to Glendale, Thomas Spooner was appointed Glendale's Mayor. He held the position from 1884 to 1888. This capped a career of public service at all levels of government.



In his final years, Thomas Spooner researched and wrote the history of his ancestor William Spooner (1637-1684) of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Thomas Spooner died in 1890 and is buried at Spring Grove Cemetery.

*Submitted by Martin Sinnott*

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**Howard Constable, Glendale Hero**

Howard Constable was a wonderful guy. He died last year at age 100. He was born in 1922 in Norwood, OH. He served in WWI. He married his high school sweetheart, Jean, and they raised five children. His career at GE Aircraft Engines spanned 38 years.

Volunteering came naturally to Howard. He volunteered in Wyoming where he lived for 31 years. He volunteered at GE in several ways. In Glendale, where he lived for 35 years, he volunteered at Glendale Heritage Preservation.



Howard was one of the prime movers for getting the old Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railroad depot renovated and converted to the Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum. He and Jean volunteered at the museum for years. Howard was for many years a Glendale Heritage Preservation trustee, eventually becoming a Trustee Emeritus. For years Howard hauled the Glendale Heritage Preservation bulk mail newsletter to the Dalton Street Post Office for USPS delivery to Glendale households.

Howard has been called a renaissance man, a joy to be around, a genuine gentleman and one of a kind. He was a force for good in life and in the village.

*Submitted by Jack Buescher*

## Glendale's Original Residents

On September 13, 1794, President George Washington signed the US Patent, or deed, conveying 248,540 acres of land in southwest Ohio to John Cleves Symmes. This land was surveyed according to the Public Land Survey System, which divides land into townships containing 36 sections. Each section is nominally one square mile and contains 640 acres. Glendale lies mostly in the north half of Section 5 and the south quarter of Section 6 of Springfield Township.

The north half of Section 5 is bordered by Congress Avenue on the west, Sharon Road on the north and Oak Street on the south. The eastern edge is at the junction of Chester Road and Oak Street. Section 6 is directly north of Section 5.

On a map of Hamilton County published in 1847, four years before Glendale was founded, there are five families shown living in the north half of Section 5 and the south quarter of Section 6.



In a deed recorded on February 10, 1795, John Cleves Symmes sold all 640 acres of Section 5 of Springfield Township to John Riddle, who served as a Colonel in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Over the next several years, John Riddle would sell all of this land. In 1796, he sold the northeast quarter, totaling 160 acres, to John and James McClelland. In 1799, he sold the south half of 320 acres to Moses Miller. Sometime between 1795 and 1806, he sold the northwest quarter of 160 acres to Stephen Reeder.

Stephen Reeder sold the north 40 acres of his 160 acres to Robert Warwick in 1807. It is believed that the house at 985 Laurel Avenue, known as the Warwick Glenn Harkness House and built in 1876, was built around parts of a log house built by Robert Warwick in 1830. This property was sold to Edmund Glenn in 1835 and is in the approximate area of the house shown as E Glenn on the 1847 map.

The remaining 120 acres owned by Stephen Reeder went through several transactions before being reacquired by the Riddle family. John Riddle Jr. purchased 50 acres on the west side in 1835 and his son, John L. Riddle, purchased the other 70 acres in 1845. It is believed that the house at 780 Congress Avenue, known as the C. H. Allen House and built in 1856, was built around a house previously built on this site. Based on the price of the purchase made by John Riddle Jr. it is not likely that there was a house there at that time. Therefore, John Riddle Jr. probably built his home there after he acquired the land in 1835. This house is in the approximate area of the house shown as JR Jr on the 1847 map.

In 1843, Augustine Mullet purchased 80 acres in the northeast corner of the 160 acres originally purchased by John and James McClelland. It is obvious from subsequent development in this part of Glendale that the homes on the 1847 map shown as AMullet and JMcClelland no longer exist.

The last home on the 1847 map is that of Lewis Morse. In 1801, John Cleves Symmes sold 120 acres in the southeast corner of section 6 to Joseph Morse. The property was inherited by his son, Lewis Morse, in 1824. Records indicate that the house at 490 East Sharon Avenue, known as the Morse Mansion, was built in 1845. This house is in the approximate area of the name L Morse on the 1847 map.

In 1851, all of the property in Section 5 (with the exception of the property owned by Augustine Mullet) totaling 256 acres was purchased by Henry Clark and George Crawford for \$76,916 to found Glendale.

*Submitted by Joe Dubinski*



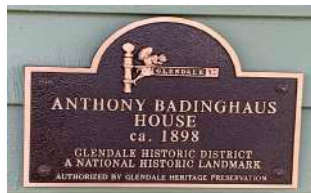
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## Glendale House Plaques

There are now 118 Glendale houses with plaques identifying their original owner.

Glendale Heritage Preservation recently installed two new house plaques: the Anthony Badinghaus House at 325 East Sharon Avenue, and the Clara Bell Sears House at 885 Forest Avenue.



If your house is at least 100 years old and you would like to distinguish it with a brass plaque commemorating its original owner, please contact Glendale Heritage Preservation. You will find an application form, with the necessary details of applying for a plaque, on our website at [www.GlendaleHeritage.org/house-plaques](http://www.GlendaleHeritage.org/house-plaques).

## 2023 Membership Drive

For those who responded to our annual membership drive, we heartily thank every one of you.

At the time of writing this newsletter, membership for 2023 has reached 67% of last year's full total.

If you haven't yet joined, won't you please consider becoming a member? There are so many reasons to do so. "Preserving the Past for the Present" is more than just our motto - it's our purpose. One that's motivated us to refurbish our gas lamps and street signs, to maintain our vast archive collection, to present museum exhibits and to send out our quarterly newsletters to you.

If you appreciate what we do for the village, you can join our efforts by sending a \$30 check to Glendale Heritage Preservation at 44 Village Square in Glendale or by paying online at [www.GlendaleHeritage.org/glendale/join](http://www.GlendaleHeritage.org/glendale/join). We would be most grateful!

*Submitted by Carolyn Beaugrand*