



# Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Summer 2025

## Collection of Bricks

The origin of Glendale's Presbyterian Church lies in the early days of the Northwest Territory Indian Wars.

The Northwest Territory was located between the Appalachian Mountains and the Mississippi River, north from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes. It was ceded to the United States by the British in the Treaty of Paris in 1783. The area was the cultural home of several Native American tribes, including Shawnee, Delaware, Miami and Potawatomi. As soon as settlers started to arrive, a confederacy of tribes formed in 1785 to resist the occupation of Indian lands. This was the start of the Northwest Territory Indian War.

The war went on for ten years, during which time there were many skirmishes and battles.



In 1789, during one of these engagements, James Burns, a soldier in the U.S. Army, was seriously wounded. He was transported back to his home in Pennsylvania to recover. During his recovery, he turned against fighting the Indians, and decided that he would return to the Northwest Territory to build a church in which both settlers and Indians could worship. He convinced the Presbyterian congregation, to which he belonged, to support him in this mission.

In 1792, an organizing party, including James Burns, set out from Pennsylvania to build the church. They chose to build on the Indian Trace (now Congress Avenue) at the junction with today's Oak Avenue. It was north of where Henry Tucker was building a

blockhouse on the same trace. Tucker's blockhouse was to provide shelter from attack and a place to worship for fellow settlers. It was to become known as the Springfield Baptist Church.

James Burns's church building started out as a log hut. He eventually realized his dream and built a church from a collection of bricks reputedly donated by Pennsylvanian parishioners. It was known as the Mill Creek Church and was affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

By 1840, the church had overcome many of its problems, including the expulsion of its minister, Rev. Robert Warwick. However, the church needed repairs and was too small to support the growing congregation. It was decided to build two new churches to replace the Mill Creek Church. One in Sharon (now Sharonville) and one in the area that was to become Glendale. Those members to the east of the Miami Erie Canal were to become part of the Sharonville Presbyterian Church, while those west of the canal formed the Glendale church.

The Mill Creek Church members assigned to the Glendale church originally met in scattered locations. In 1855, Rev. Ludlow Day Potter, President of the Glendale Female College, and Stanley Matthews, a prominent attorney, called the members together to organize the First Presbyterian Church of Glendale. By 1860, a new brick chapel was built, and in 1873, the main church building was constructed, also of brick.

*Submitted by  
Martin Sinnott  
based on a story by  
Bill Cook*



*Architect's Plan of Chapel 1860*

**Founder**

Doreen D. Gove

**Officers**

Elizabeth Carroll-Oldiges, President  
Carolyn Beaugrand, Vice President  
Patrick Myers, Vice President  
Helene Sedwick, Treasurer  
Rebecca Terrell, Secretary

**Trustees**

Maureen Base-Smith  
Jill Beitz  
Sharon Borntrager  
Dr. Jim Brewer  
Roxann Dieffenbach  
Michelle G. Evans  
Nancy Floyd  
Peter Galbraith  
Joanne Goode  
Carol Muntz  
Cameron O'Riley  
Charlie Pierce  
Connie Halbauer Redden  
Betty Robertson  
Rohit Sharma  
Martin Sinnott  
Judy Skyllingstad  
Carl Stritzel  
Susan Swaine  
Sheila Warman

**Trustees Emeriti**

Doreen Gove  
Peg Shardelow  
Jack Buescher

**Archivist**

Charlie Pierce

**Gift Shop Manager**

Elizabeth Oldiges

**Newsletter Editor**

Martin Sinnott

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

**facebook: [@glendaleheritagepreservation](https://www.facebook.com/glendaleheritagepreservation)**

**email: [GHP@fuse.net](mailto:GHP@fuse.net)**

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

**Glendale Heritage Preservation's Archivist**

With the retirement of Joanne Goode after more than 20 years as Glendale Heritage Preservation's archivist, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Charlie Pierce as the new archivist.

Charlie leads a team of trustees and volunteers, including Susan Armstrong, Jennifer Grueninger, Sheila Warman and

Joan Wengler. Their job is to manage the current archives, to provide historical research assistance and to process items for accession into the archives. If you have items of historical significance for the archives, please bring them to the depot on Thursdays or Saturdays between 11 and 3. Your donation will help expand Glendale's understanding of its unique history.

**Anthony Harkness, Locomotive Builder**

Glendale Heritage Preservation has released a new video called "Anthony Harkness, Locomotive Builder." Harkness's

company built the steam locomotive seen pulling into Glendale's depot in this 1865 photo. He was also one of thirty founders of Glendale and built his home on Laurel

Avenue. In 1857, he

became Glendale's second mayor. You can view the Harkness video by searching on YouTube for "Anthony Harkness," or by typing or clicking this link <https://youtu.be/nt1q1LaPnBI>



The Anthony Harkness story was researched and presented by Charlie Pierce. It joins two other video stories by Charlie: John Van Zandt and Daniel McLaren. All three can be viewed on YouTube by searching for "Glendale Heritage Preservation" or by clicking on this link <https://www.youtube.com/@glendaleheritagepreservation3785>

## Glendale's Five Historical Markers.

### What's the Connection?

At the intersection of Oak Road and Chester Road, there is a historical marker for *Tucker's Station*. The name Tucker refers to Henry and Mary Tucker. They moved from Bergen, NJ, to join settlers in Columbia, a community founded in 1788 on the banks of the Ohio River, near the mouth of the Little Miami River. Columbia was situated in the Northwest Territory, which was home to Native Americans. Like the other settlers in Columbia, Henry and Mary were Baptists and belonged to the Columbia Baptist Church.



Henry and Mary Tucker left Columbia in 1792 to clear land and build a station house on the Indian Trace, a mile south of where the Century Inn now stands. The station house was to be used for worship services and as a fort in case of Native American attack. Fear of Indian attack drove the Tuckers back to Columbia that year. Two years later in 1794, with General Anthony Wayne's campaign against the Indians underway, they moved back to the Indian Trace. By 1798, they had organized their church and named it the Springfield Baptist Church. Over time, the Springfield Baptist Church was moved and renamed. It eventually became the Landmark Baptist Church on Oak Road.

Across from the Century Inn, in Tollgate Park, there is a historical marker to *The Cincinnati and Hamilton Turnpike*. The turnpike was built in 1817 on the same Indian Trace that the Tuckers used for their station, and the same trail used by General Anthony Wayne in his campaign against the Indians. The Cincinnati and Hamilton Turnpike Company raised \$100,000 to turn the Indian Trace into a road capable of reducing travel time between Cincinnati and Hamilton to two days. Tolls were collected to pay for the cost of the road. The Century Inn, at tollgate 3, was conveniently halfway. In 1948, the turnpike was designated as part of the Anthony Wayne Parkway, which ran from Cincinnati to Toledo.



Alongside the Tucker's Station historical marker at Oak Road and Chester Road is *The Eliza House* historical marker commemorating abolitionist John Van Zandt. He lived close by in a house on Oak Road overlooking the Mill Creek Valley and was a prominent conductor on the Underground Railroad. In 1842, Van Zandt was captured in Sharon transporting freedom seekers north. His case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where he was found guilty and ordered to pay a fine. He refused and in 1847 died in prison. When writing her novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe modeled the abolitionist John Van Trompe after Van Zandt. As a result, Van Zandt's house became known as the Eliza House for one of the novel's principal characters. Unfortunately, the building no longer stands.



The founding of Glendale in 1851 included the Van Zandt farm in its southeast corner and used the turnpike to define its western boundary. The historical marker *Village of Glendale 1855*, in the village square, commemorates the incorporation of the Village as one of the earliest planned communities in the United States. This distinction was recognized by the Department of the Interior in 1977 when Glendale was designated a National Historic Landmark.



The *Eckstein School, 1915-1958* historic marker on Washington Avenue commemorates the segregated Black school for grades kindergarten through eighth grade. Just twenty years after John Van Zandt's death for his belief that African Americans should be free, Eleanor Eckstein started a school based on her conviction that African American children should have an education. The first school, established in 1868, was in the barn at the back of her house on East Fountain Avenue. In recognition of her initiative, the school on Washington Avenue was named for her. Following desegregation in 1958, the Eckstein school was closed.



Five historical markers, five connected stories!

*Submitted by Martin Sinnott*



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

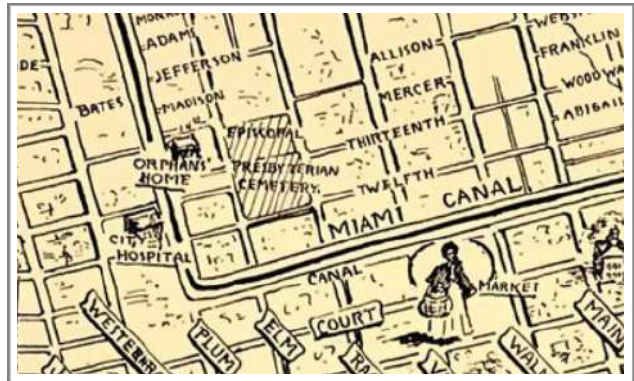
44 Village Square  
Glendale OH 45246

## Slain By A Party Of Indians

In northwestern Ohio, the final battle of the Northwest Indian Wars was fought at Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794. However, this didn't immediately prevent fatal encounters with groups of Indians. Just six weeks after the battle of Fallen Timbers, Robert Elliott and a servant were attacked and killed by Indians north of Glendale on their way from Fort Hamilton to Fort Washington.

Robert Elliott was a merchant in Pennsylvania when he received a commission from Alexander Hamilton to supply all the U.S. Army forts and outposts in the west. This commission included support for General Anthony Wayne and his army's march to Fallen Timbers. Elliott accompanied the army and functioned as the army's chief quartermaster during the campaign. With the Indian Confederation defeated at Fallen Timbers, near present-day Toledo, Elliott headed south to visit Fort Washington in present-day Cincinnati. Elliott arrived safely at Fort Hamilton in Hamilton, but met his demise on October 6, 1794, after leaving Fort Hamilton for Fort Washington.

He was buried in the Presbyterian cemetery at Fort Washington, but later, in 1835, he was disinterred to the Presbyterian Burying Ground on 12th Street.



The inscription on his grave read, "In memory of Col. Robert Elliott, slain by a party of Indians near this point while in the service of his country. Placed by son Commodore Jesse D. Elliott, US Navy 1835."

In 1855, the city announced plans to convert the Burying Ground into a park, Washington Park. Once again, he was disinterred and is now buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

*Submitted by Charlie Pierce*