



Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Fall 2025

Harkness Portraits Reunited

After being owned by six generations of the Harkness family, the paintings of Mary Hoagland Harkness and William Harkness have been reunited by donations to Glendale Heritage Preservation.

William is the son of Anthony Harkness (1793-1858), a renowned steam locomotive engine builder. The painting first hung in the home of Anthony and Mary Harkness on Laurel Avenue. The sixth-generation owner of the painting, Dr. Richard Keys, inherited it from his grandmother, Margaret Randall Keys. He owned it for 50 years!



Dr. Keys has recently moved from his home on East Fountain Avenue to Maple Knoll Village. While deciding how to disperse his family heirlooms, he watched Glendale Heritage Preservation's YouTube video on the life of Anthony Harkness. This inspired him to donate the painting to Glendale Heritage Preservation for safekeeping.

William Harkness (1821-1853) married Aurora O'Dell (1823-1856) in 1849. They had three children, two of whom survived to adulthood: Frank and Emma Dorcas Harkness. William's untimely death, at the age of 32, meant Emma was born after he had passed. Then, when she was only two, her mother died. At age four, she lost her grandfather, Anthony Harkness, and by sixteen, her grandmother Mary Hoagland Harkness, had also passed away.

At the age of 21, Emma Dorcas Harkness married William Barr Keys. They built their home, now known as Glen Gables, on the Harkness property on

Laurel Avenue. Their son, Richard Thompson Keys, had five children, one of whom was also called Richard. That Richard had a son also named Richard - Dr. Richard Keys, the sixth-generation descendent of Anthony and Mary Harkness.

Dr. Richard Keys' sister, Janet Keys Simpkinson, on hearing of her brother's donation, decided she would donate the painting of William's mother, Mary Hoagland Harkness, the wife of Anthony Harkness, which was in her possession.



Glendale Heritage Preservation is grateful for the generosity of Dr. Richard Keys and Janet Simpkinson



for donating the paintings of their great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Harkness, and their great-great-grandfather, William Harkness. Both paintings are currently on display in Glendale Heritage Preservation's museum located in the Village Square depot.

Submitted by Martin Sinnott

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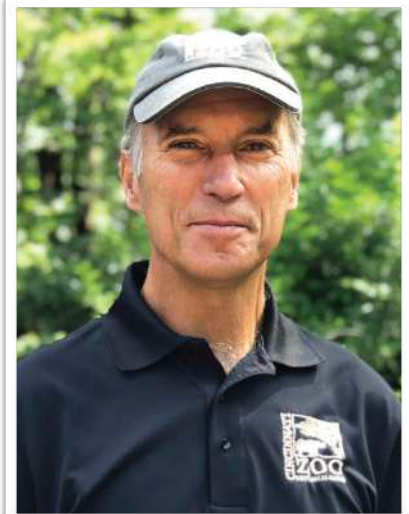
Glendale Heritage Preservation Annual Meeting

Save the date! The Glendale Heritage Preservation annual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 11th**, at Christ Church Glendale's All Saints Fellowship Hall. We'll kick things off with a reception at 7 p.m., and then the annual meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

The real highlight will be a presentation by Thane Maynard, the Director of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and a proud Glendale resident.

This year marks Thane's 50th year at the Zoo & Botanical Garden, which is also the 150th anniversary of its opening in 1875 making it the second-oldest zoo in the country, after Philadelphia (1874).

Thane will take us on a journey through the history of the Zoo & Botanical Garden, from its humble beginnings in 1873 to its status as the "Greenest Zoo in America." He'll share some fascinating animal stories along the way, so you'll be entertained and educated at the same time.



Thane is a true wildlife enthusiast and advocate for conservation and education. He's written more than a dozen books, including the most recent, "*Hope For Animals and Their World*," which he coauthored with the legendary Jane Goodall. He's also been sharing science and environmental news on his nationally syndicated radio program, "*The 90-Second Naturalist*," since 1987.

The annual meeting is free and open to everyone! Join us for an evening of fun, learning, and wildlife appreciation. We can't wait to see you there!

The Flood of 2025

History is always in the making and thankfully, the “Flood of 2025” is in the archives as another chapter in the history of Glendale and the Glendale Heritage Preservation museum!

In March, the Cincinnati area received a record-breaking rainfall total for one day of 1.76 inches. This surpassed the previous record set in 1948 when 1.24 inches had fallen. Cincinnati experienced 14 days of rain doubling our average 7 days of rain. A total of 4.49 inches of rain fell. Following up in April, we received nearly 3 inches of rain in just 72 hours. All this water had to go somewhere; so, in Glendale, a large portion settled in the basement of the Glendale Historic Preservation museum. More than 3 ½ feet of water filled the basement!

Since the basement is not routinely accessed, the water went unnoticed and continued to rise. Once identified, the Glendale Fire Department came to our aid and began pumping the water out. Since the building belongs to The Village of Glendale, the Village Maintenance team took over the pumping. More than 1000 gallons of water a day for over two weeks. The rain and the water just continued to come in.

When the water level reached a manageable level, a close examination of the situation was able to be conducted. The sump pump had failed, allowing the water to remain in the basement. Mold developed as a result of the increased humidity. We were forced to close the museum and gift shop for nearly two months for the health and safety of our guests and volunteers until a solution could be identified.

Before the repairs could begin, the Village Maintenance Department was challenged with the task of removing discarded lumber believed to



have been left behind when the building was built in 1880. In addition to the lumber, old pipes and the deteriorated vapor barrier that had covered the dirt floor in an attempt to control the moisture also had to be removed.

It was determined that the support beams and flooring had been compromised after years of high humidity and high-water levels. Hart Restoration was contracted to restore the damaged wood and reinforce the center beams strengthening the integrity of the depot.

The Village Council approved the project and the payment of \$9,528 to complete the project.



With the restoration of the building complete, Glendale Heritage Preservation was faced with the cost of preventive maintenance. Jaco Waterproofing was contracted to encapsulate the area, install a larger sump pump system, and set up two commercial grade dehumidifiers to control the amount of moisture in the area. The cost of the additional work totaled \$14,425, which would have had a huge financial impact.

The Christ Church Glendale William Cooper Procter Foundation came to our aid and generously approved a grant to cover the cost of the Jaco Waterproofing work. Without the assistance of both the Village of Glendale and the Christ Church Glendale William Cooper Procter Foundation’s generosity, the next few years of exhibits and operation in general would have been gravely impacted. Thankfully, we can put the “Flood of 2025” into our archives and move forward with planning the celebration of “America 250” with the rest of our great Nation!

Submitted by Elizabeth Oldiges



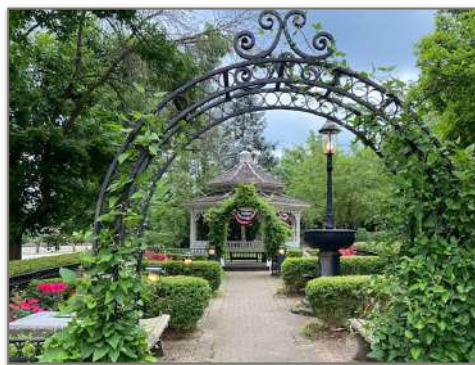
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Beautifying Glendale for 110 Years

The Glendale Garden Club, founded in 1915, is among the oldest garden clubs in Cincinnati and a founding member of Federated Garden Clubs of Cincinnati. For 110 years, the club's mission has remained the same: growing the knowledge and love of gardening.

The club's first project was in 1915 with the purchase of 150 Linden and Japanese Walnut trees bought and planted in collaboration with the Village Improvement Society, known now as the Glendale Urban Forestry Board. The Glendale Garden Club has sponsored a series of planting projects throughout its 110 years in Glendale. In 1921, the club donated wild Crabapple trees in Floral Park and dedicated them with a plaque, "In honor of the men and women of our village who answered the call of their country in the World War, 1914-1918." Most recently, a Three-Flowered Maple was planted in Rogan Park and dedicated with a stone and plaque, "In memory as a tribute to the members of The



Glendale Garden Club who faithfully tended Rogan Park."

In June of 2000, the land for Rogan Park was generously donated to the Village in memory of Ralph and Bessie Rogan by their grandchildren, the Burchenal and Carruthers families. The Glendale

Garden Club proudly volunteered to become the caretakers for the planting and maintenance of Rogan Park. In addition to the inviting gazebo, Rogan Park is also home to the magnificent Procter Fountain. The fountain, a gift to the Village of Glendale by Mr. William A. Procter, was originally erected across from Town Hall in 1894 but later moved to Rogan Park.

For 110 years, the dedicated members of The Glendale Garden Club have honored the legacy of its founding members. With immense pride, The Glendale Garden Club continues to grow its knowledge and love of gardening while beautifying Glendale for the enjoyment of all.

Submitted by Katie Kreidler