



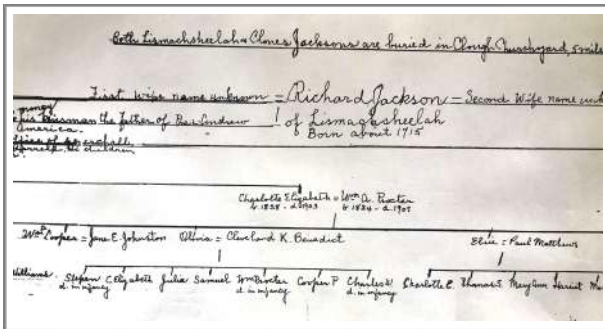
Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Spring 2026

Seventeen-Foot Jackson Family Tree

Stretching back over 300 years, the Jackson family tree occupies 17 feet of two-foot-wide paper! This genealogical roll had been in the hands of Sebastian Matthews until it was donated to Glendale Heritage Preservation in 2025. Genealogical rolls evolved in medieval England and became popular there. However, they were never common in the United States, so this is unique and a rarity.

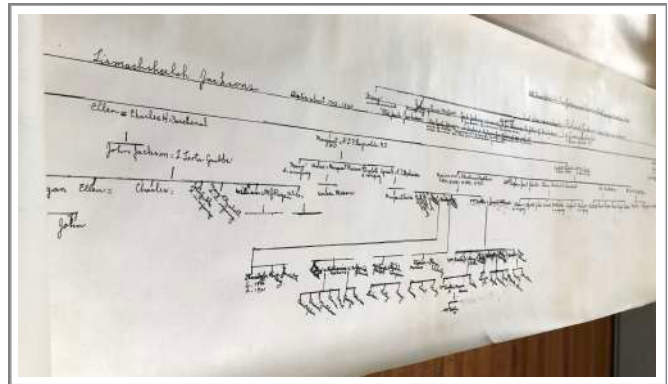
The Jackson family tree was first compiled in 1907 by Adelia Whitelaw Jackson. She based it on the family knowledge learned from her 86-year-old mother, Mary Kidd Whitelaw Jackson. It starts with Richard Jackson's birth in 1715 in Lismacsheela, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.



Several generations later, this detail of the Jackson tree shows the entry for Charlotte Elizabeth Jackson who married William Alexander Procter (son of the founder of P&G). They made Glendale their home in 1861 in a house on Albion Avenue.

By 1915, the Jackson family tree document had passed to Marianna Procter Matthews, who set about bringing the family tree up to date. She was the daughter of William Alexander Procter and Charlotte Elizabeth Jackson. Her husband was Mortimer Matthews, the son of Stanley Matthews, a US Senator and Supreme Court justice. He lived in Glendale beginning in 1854 in a house called Oakencroft at 128 East Fountain Avenue.

By 1964, the Jackson family tree was with the daughters of Marianna Matthews, Elizabeth and Olivia Matthews. Concerned about the condition of the document, they set about copying the original onto a new roll of 17-foot-long paper. After Elizabeth died, Olivia, a Sister at the Community of the Transfiguration, completed the family tree in 1965.



The copy was passed through the Matthews lineage. It probably passed from Sister Olivia Mary to her brother's wife, Janet Matthews, and then to her grandson, William P. Matthews III. Finally, it became the property of William's son, Sebastian Matthews, in 1997. Sebastian Matthews is a fifth-generation descendant of Stanley and Mary Matthews.

In 2024, Glendale Heritage Preservation was contacted to determine if its archive would be interested in a donation of the Jackson family tree. Sebastian and family members Susan Matthews (aunt) and Will Matthews (brother) made the donation in 2025.

It may now be viewed in the Glendale Heritage Preservation archives. All 17 feet of it!

Submitted by Martin Sinnott

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Glendale Heritage Preservation's 2026 Officers



(Left to Right) Helene Sedwick (Assistant Treasurer), Patrick Myers (Treasurer), Elizabeth Carroll-Oldiges (President), Connie Halbauer-Redden (Vice President), Carolyn Beaugrand (Vice President)

America 250 T-Shirt Competition



The joint winners of Glendale Heritage Preservation's America 250 t-shirt design competition are Raina Sweiss (left) and Vivian Redden (right). They were presented with their prizes by Elizabeth Oldiges, Glendale Heritage Preservation's President, at the opening of the America

250 exhibit. Both Raina and Vivian are 4th grade students at St. Gabriel Consolidated School.



Designs by Raina (left), Vivian (right)

Their designer t-shirts are now available for purchase in the Black Squirrel Gift Shop.

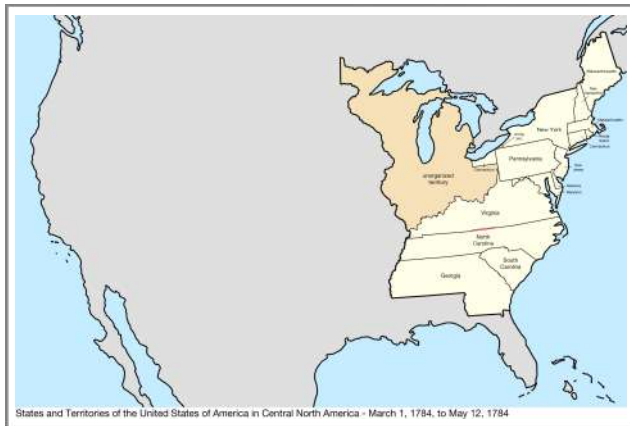
Glendale's Early Beginnings

Imagine yourself living in this area in the 1700s! Although several settlements were established by the end of this century in what is now southwest Ohio, it was a dangerous and challenging journey along the way.

Shawnee and Miami Native American tribes occupied this area of the Miami and Ohio River Valleys. When plagued by tribal wars, settlers or disease, they migrated in search of fertile agricultural lands and hunting. This then unorganized territory would become the Northwest Territory.

By mid-century, settlers from Europe arrived from the East to obtain cheap, available land and pursue their own prosperity or, in some cases, to avoid war. Unfortunately, many found themselves in hostile conflicts with the Native Americans for cherished land and hunting rights.

Following the Revolutionary War, the Treaty of Paris (1783) formally recognized U.S. independence. European settlers were encouraged to settle here. However, conflicts continued as the Native Americans, who were not mentioned in the treaty, remained and sought to protect their cultures.



Congress established the Northwest Territory in 1787. It granted the government authority to sell most of the land for permanent settlement, which aided Congress in paying the substantial war debts.

Soon after, Captain Benjamin Stites (PA), visited the Miami Valley (1787) and was impressed by its beauty and fertility. He persuaded Judge John

Cleves Symmes (NJ), a Revolutionary War veteran, to purchase land from Congress that was between the Great and Little Miami Rivers. It is referred to as the Symmes or Miami Purchase. He paid two-thirds of a dollar per acre (248,540 acres) and sold one section (640 acres) to Mr. Stites in 1788.

Three settlements were established in four months' time, during 1788-1789: Columbia (Lunken Airport area), by Mr. Stites; Losantiville (aka Cincinnati), by Mathias Denman; and Symmes City (North Bend), by Mr. Symmes. Settlers, with supplies and livestock, arrived on flatboats that were broken up for lumber to construct cabins.

Fort Washington (Lytle Park area) was built in 1789 to protect settlers, but raids escalated into war between the U.S. Army and Native Americans. The Northwest Indian War ended at the Battle of Fallen Timbers (1794) near Toledo. The resulting Treaty of Greenville (1795) required Native American tribes to cede their land claims to the U.S. That included two-thirds of present-day Ohio, so they were forced to move northwest and west.

The treaty also granted European settlers permission to claim this area as farmland. Subsequently, the pace of settlements accelerated, the area prospered, and the foundations for Glendale were established. Early residents included John Riddle, Moses Miller, John and James McClelland, Stephen Reeder, Robert Warwick, Edmund Glenn, and Augustine Mullet. George Crawford and Henry Clark purchased 256 acres for \$76,916 to found Glendale in 1851.

Note: This is a companion article for the current America 250 exhibit at Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum.

"Glendale's Original Residents" is an article that details Glendale's early property history. It can be found at the Glendale Heritage Preservation website in the Summer, 2023 newsletter on page 3. All newsletters are available at the website: GlendaleHeritage.org.

"Glendale: Looking Back Over 250 Years, an America 250 Exhibit" is currently at Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum, 44 Village Square in Glendale. Plan to see it on Thursdays and Saturdays between 11:00 and 3:00.

Submitted by Betty Robertson



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Glendale OH 45246

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2026 Membership Drive

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

With your grateful support, we'd like to match or surpass last year's goal!

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! It has 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 check (\$30 individual, \$50 household, \$75 business) to Glendale Heritage Preservation at 44 Village Square in Glendale or by paying online at www.GlendaleHeritage.org/glendale/join. We would be most grateful!

Submitted by Carolyn Beaugrand

Want a Glendale House Plaque?

Houses over 100 years old are eligible for a Glendale historical house plaque. Any individual interested in obtaining a plaque for their property should fill out a request form available at Glendale Heritage Preservation's Museum or online at GlendaleHeritage.org/house-plaques.



A \$50 donation is required to cover the cost of investigating the history of the property to verify the construction date. And, it will provide an estimate of the construction date of the structure and a complete list of the owners of the property from the 1850s until the present.

If the structure is old enough to qualify for a plaque, and the owner wishes to purchase the plaque for an additional \$500, Glendale Heritage Preservation will order the plaque and make arrangements with the property owner to install it.