GLENDALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION

Heritage News

A quarterly newsletter of Glendale Heritage Preservation, Fall 2026

Farm to Table

The Treaty of Greenville (1795) granted settlers permission to claim the area known as Glendale as farmland, and by the mid-1800s, this area had prospered. Key owners of farmland used for livestock, crops, and fruit trees were Edmund R. Glenn, John Riddle, John M. Cochran, Robert Watson, and Henry Morse. Each sold some or all of their land for the creation and expansion of Glendale. Several new farms and food service businesses were established later in and near Glendale. Here are a few:

Opekasit Farms, Inc.: Opekasit, an Indian word meaning "looking toward the dawn," was established in 1930. It was celebrated for its milk and dairy products from Golden Guernsey cattle. It was the first to establish Grade A milk distribution routes. Opekasit Farms was also recognized for its new approaches as a business leader and innovator in farm management and breeding. The farmlands are now occupied by Landmark Church and the Princeton High School and Middle School complex.

Hetherington Farm: Celebrated for breeding "Hetherington Jerseys," a national award-winning herd of elite Jersey dairy cows, including the 1962 National Grand Champion! It was also one of the homes of "Elsie the Cow." Elsie was a Jersey cow that toured the country in 1936 in a customized "Cowdillac" to promote safe, pasteurized milk for Borden Dairy. The whole herd was donated to the agricultural operations at Berry College near Rome, Georgia, in 1980. The farmland was redeveloped into Hetherington Lane and Court.

The Old Inn (1806), aka The Century Inn (1906): Located on "Wayne's War Trace" (Springfield Pike), at 10675 Springfield Pike, and originally west of the tollgate that was halfway between Hamilton and Cincinnati. This landmark was begun by Andrew Van Dyke in 1806, as a stagecoach stop and tavern for travelers. Early on, fresh horses were available for the trip on to Cincinnati to allow a traveler's horses to rest until their owners returned. In the 1900s, the owner bought 60 dairy cows (to create Summit Dairy) which provided milk for Glendale residents and the restaurant. This historic family restaurant is still popular in the community today, 220 years later! It is one of the oldest inns in the state of Ohio.

Heffner Tavern: Where 25 West Fountain Ave. is today. It was a brick tavern built in the 19th Century by Mrs. Heffner, along the toll road and not far from The Century Inn.

Bracker's Tavern, 40 Village Square, adjacent to the railroad tracks, 1856-1962: It was a drovers' inn (for those driving cattle) and served others, but after Prohibition in 1918, it became more of a restaurant. The Village Marshal arranged for "overnight guests" in the village lock-up just across the tracks to be fed breakfast prepared at the Tavern! A soda fountain was added in the 1920s. Several additional restaurants have since operated in this building, including: **Heinie's Tavern, The Iron Horse Inn, The Rail House,** and **Meritage.**

Submitted by Betty Robertson

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Margaret Ault Shardelow

Peg Shardelow had been part of the very fiber of the Glendale fabric for eight decades.

Since 1993, Peg served as a Trustee, President, and Officer of Glendale Heritage Preservation. In 1996, she was a Project Manager for the complete renovation of the historic railroad depot.

Peg also created Glendale Heritage Preservation's famous "welcome bag" program for new residents.

In addition, she developed the multimedia exhibit at Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum that commemorated the 150th year of Christ Church Glendale, where she had been a lifelong member and served on the Altar Guild.

Peg was named Trustee Emerita of Glendale Heritage Preservation in 2019. She died on May 25, 2026, at the age of 92.

Carol V. Muntz

Carol was an artist as well as a teacher in the Princeton City and Winton Woods School Districts.

Her many volunteer endeavors included Glendale Heritage Preservation, where she served as a trustee for over 15 years.

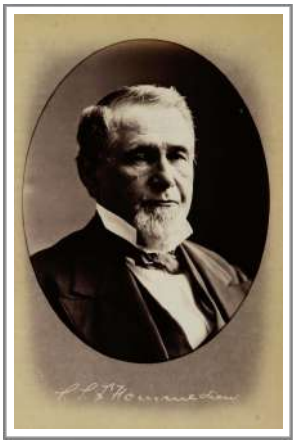
She died on July 6, 2026, at the age of 85.

Thirty Founders of Glendale

A group of 30 businessmen financed the establishment of Glendale. In 1851, they bought stock in a company called the Glendale Association. Who were these men who had the foresight to build a community on farmland next to a railroad track north of Cincinnati?

In the 1840s, prior to the formation of the Glendale Association, Cincinnati was a boom town. It was the largest city west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was a transport hub with river steamers and canal boat traffic, and the advent of railroads was just around the corner. People had moved from the East Coast and from Europe to take advantage of the opportunity to make their fortune in Cincinnati.

The Glendale Association was made up of Cincinnati merchants, industrialists, bankers, publishers, farmers, and professionals; people who had made their fortunes. Some of them were directly involved in the Cincinnati, Dayton, and Hamilton Railroad Company. **Stephen L'Hommedieu** was the president of the railroad, **George Carlisle** was a vice president, and **John Young** was on the board of directors. Other members who would benefit from the railroad's success included **Anthony Harkness**, manufacturer of steam locomotives, **Jacob Strader**, owner of several steam boats, metal manufacturers **Fenton Lawson** and **Lewis Washington**, and railroad surveyor **Marcus Smith**.



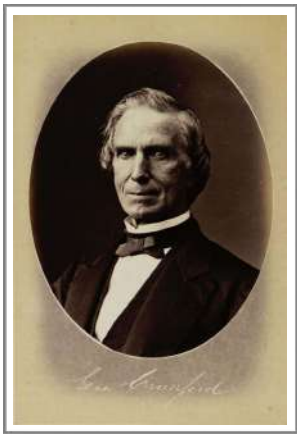
Stephen L'Hommedieu

Some industrialists involved in the Glendale Association were associated with the industry that gave Cincinnati its nickname of Porkopolis. Both **Clement Dietrich** and **Andrew Gross** manufactured soap and candles from the rendered fat of pigs. **Abraham Taylor** was a tanner of pig hides.

The professions were represented by the **Hon. John Wright**, who was a lawyer turned newspaper publisher of the *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*. **Dr. Joseph Taylor** was a dentist, and **Henry Clark**, a druggist.

Prosperous merchants were also members of the Glendale Association. **Robert Crawford**, **Benjamin Sterrett**, and **Robert Bowler** made their fortunes in selling dry goods, while **Charles Acton**, **George Steadman, Ezra Elliott**, and **John Ellis** made theirs as merchants of one type or another.

Not surprisingly, members who had real estate interests made up the largest group of investors. These included **Samuel Fosdick**, **William Burnet**, **Eden Reeder**, and **Walter Gregory**. Also with an interest in property development was **George Crawford**, a builder, and **William Moores**, a manufacturer of building materials.



George Crawford

The owner of the initial land on which Glendale was built, **Edmund Glenn**, and his son **Isaac Glenn** also invested in the Association.

That just leaves **Enoch Mudge**, a manufacturer of furniture, to make up the group of 30 members of the Glendale Association.

Members of the Glendale Association were expected to build houses in Glendale, and many did. The plots were laid out in sizes ranging from one to 20 acres. Houses were to be substantial, costing at least $6,500 (now $280,000). Samuel Fosdick was the first to build at 110 East Sharon Avenue. At least eight other members also built houses before the village was incorporated in 1855. Today, the most recognizable of these is the Robert Crawford house at 160 East Sharon Avenue.

The foundation and existence of Glendale today is a direct result of the confidence and commitment of these wealthy businessmen. They believed in the viability of establishing a community in the fresh countryside air far away from the overcrowded and disease-ridden tenements of Cincinnati, knowing they could catch a commuter train to their businesses in Cincinnati.

Research by Charlie Pierce, story by Martin Sinnott

GLENDALE HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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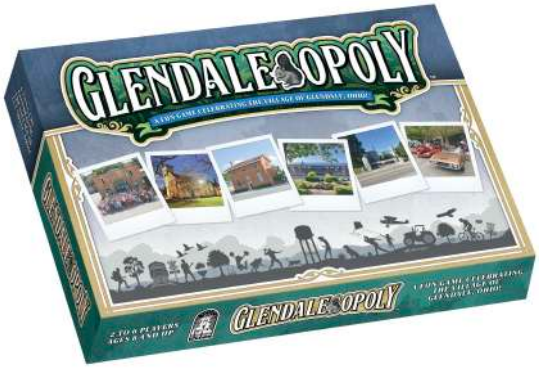
Glendale-Opoly

Rekindle those memories of playing Monopoly with family and friends with a version tailored to Historic Glendale Village! You will be able to own properties from around Glendale, such as Rogan Park, Village Square, and Albion Avenue. Also included are draw cards reflecting Glendale life, such as: *Win a garden club prize of $200*, *Donate $100 to gas lamp renovation, and Water main break refund of $100*.



Available for $25 from the Black Squirrel Gift Shop in the Glendale Heritage Preservation Museum. It is open Thursday and Saturday 11-3.

Glendale Heritage Preservation Annual Meeting

Save the date! The Glendale Heritage Preservation annual meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 10th**, 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.

Our featured speaker is Peg Schmidt. Her presentation will be on **Genealogy: Basics and Beyond**. Peg is a public historian with more than 50 years of experience in genealogy research. She has done workshops on Finding Your Irish Roots, Cincinnati German Genealogy, and Genealogy 101.

Her genealogy focus is helping people use the Internet and other sources to find their family roots and, additionally, to learn the stories of their ancestors' lives.

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