



LETTER FROM PTP PRESIDENT—DANA NOEL

A special thank you to Harriet Chapman for her November talk at Fairlawn Country Club. Attendees enjoyed a breakfast buffet followed by Harriet's wonderful presentation about the history of Fairlawn Heights, its early homes and their residents. Even though inconvenienced with tech glitches, Harriet presented a very lively and informative session on the design, development and history of Fairlawn Heights. Thank you Alice Christie for organizing this event and keeping it on the PTP calendar, even though it was canceled due to COVID over a year ago. Interest was even greater this year with over 100 people attending. Thanks also to John Miller, Janet Little, Pattie Noel, and Suzie McKay for helping with PR, set up, and reception.

Kudos to Sarah Deitrick, Beth Kinney and Diane Orender for their success in saving the historic Keyser-Swain farmhouse and barn. Earlier this year they were requesting the City of

Cuyahoga Falls save the farmhouse and barn. It was felt the demolition of these historic buildings would be a needless and terrible loss to the community. The community would be better served economically and culturally by adaptively reusing them as public gathering and event spaces. Since PTP had previous experience developing and preserving Preservation House, PTP was asked to be an umbrella organization for the advocacy of these buildings. It was proposed that PTP act as the legal entity and fiscal agent for a license agreement with the City of Cuyahoga Falls to restore the buildings. In July, PTP's Board unanimously agreed to this proposal and additionally offered the proceeds of our "Go Fund Me" account from St Paul's as seed money to stabilize and make safe the existing conditions. But before a sub committee could even be formed, the City of Cuyahoga Falls announced there would be no demolition and the City

would be responsible for all the work! Victory!

This is the result of Sarah, Beth, and Diane's tireless advocacy initiative over the past year to save these important buildings. Although this happily did not turn into an adaptive reuse project for PTP, we want to continue to pursue these initiatives and put our talent and resources to work saving our history. Anyone knowing of a significant historic building or place at risk in our community, please contact John Myers, PTP's Advocacy Chair, via johnmyerscolpa@gmail.com, to discuss what we can do as an organization to help.

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UPCOMING PTP MEETINGS

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| Dec. 13, 14th | Holiday Meeting at Chateau Fifty—former estate of Harvey Firestone Jr. This meeting is for MEMBERS ONLY. Reservations required. |
| Jan. 2022 | PTP Annual Meeting—Dinner at the Akron Woman's Club with election of officers and board members followed by speaker Dave Leiberth, chairman of Akron's Bicentennial Celebration. |
| Feb. 21, 2022 | Summit Art Space—Speaker Heather Meeker will give a history of the building |

A Quilted Christmas at the SCHS

From December 1st to the 30th, the Summit County Historical Society, the Perkins Stone Mansion and the John Brown House will be open for Christmas tours **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**.

This year's theme features examples from their extensive quilt collection. View the first floors of the 1830s structures decorated for the holidays and showcasing coverlet and quilt artifacts.

You can visit the Wood Shed Emporium for any last-minute gifts of books on history, wood items made from trees on the property, and unique Akron-related items.

Tours must be prepaid in advance. Masks need to be worn inside all the buildings. Call the Society office at 330-535-1120 to schedule your visit or you can schedule online at www.SummitHistory.org. Tickets for adults are \$8, Seniors (55+) \$5, Students \$2 and children 5 and younger are free.

If you don't see any available date and time online that fits your group, call to ask if special arrangements can be made this season or early in January.



Salem Ohio's Abolitionist History



The last three PTP newsletters told about Salem's abolitionist history and homes owned by Daniel Howell Hise and John Street which were stops on the Underground Railroad. This month features the former home of Benjamin Smith Jones and Jane Elizabeth Hitchcock Jones who were co-editors of the Anti-Slavery Bugle.

The newspaper was first published in Lisbon Ohio but moved to Salem after five issues since the town was home to many Quaker families and an active station on the Underground Railroad. The move allowed the paper to be in circulation for 18 years and shipped to like-minded people in neighboring states.

Surprisingly, more is written about Jane Jones than her husband. She was a noted abolitionist who traveled throughout the Northeast as a lecturer. In 1850, she spoke before the Ohio Women's Convention in Salem where she wished the term "Women's Rights" not be used and instead to focus on human rights for all.

The house sold in January of this year for \$335,000. The new owner plans to spend an additional \$350,000 to restore the property.

MEMBERSHIP

Due to the pandemic shutdown, PTP extended paid 2020 memberships through 2021, but it is that time of year again to renew for 2022. On the PTP website, www.preservationakron.org, click on the *Becoming A Member* tab and scroll to the bottom of the page. The link will take you to PTP's Paypal account. Or you can go directly to your own Paypal account and under Money Out, click on **Send Money**. Type in Progress Through Preservation to pay your dues for 2022.

The cost is \$40 for an Individual, \$50 for a Family, and \$20 for a Student (ID required). If you would prefer to receive hard copies of correspondence mailed to you rather than digitally (although emails arrive quicker), add \$10 to cover printing and stamps. Remember—your dues are tax-deductible.

If your contact information (name, address, phone number, email address) has changed, please complete and mail in an application form from the website or email the membership chair, Janet Little, at jmlittle2139@gmail.com to make the corrections. Family memberships can receive electronic correspondence to more than one email address. Just let Janet know so she can add those addresses to the mailing list.



In the last month, we have added more than 30 new members to Progress Through Preservation, as well as several former members we haven't seen for a while. Although many of our monthly meetings are open to the public, we do have some which are for members only—such as our December meeting at Chateau Fifty, the former Firestone Estate, and our annual summer picnic.

Your membership entitles you to visit and learn about buildings, neighborhoods, and sites in the area with the PTP group. Plan to be surprised by what you discover with us. These historic and architecturally significant places may already be preserved or some may still need preservation. As a member, you will have opportunities to recognize and support community efforts to maintain, restore, and adaptively reuse rather than lose our history to benign neglect or the wrecking ball.

An additional membership benefit is a one-time discount on the rental of Preservation House located at 2074 W. Market St. It is an excellent location for a family get-together or a group meeting.

So welcome new and renewed members to an exciting 2022.

Support of Progress Through Preservation Through Honorariums and Memorials

Another way to support a volunteer-driven organization like PTP is through an endowment. We urge you to give funds in honor of personal and family milestones, recognition of service, or in lieu of flowers at a funeral. Small honorariums and memorials may not seem like much, but it is an easy giving option and keeps the work being done to preserve our community's architectural history at the forefront. With the donor's permission, PTP will list the gift in future newsletters and annual reports to show our appreciation. The customary giving URL for Progress Through Preservation is: www.akroncf.org/give/PTPFund.

WE'RE ON THE WEB



Preservation House
2074 West Market Street
Akron, OH 44313
330-374-3787
info@preservationakron.org

OUR MISSION: Progress Through Preservation of Greater Akron (PTP) actively promotes and encourages the preservation, maintenance, restoration, and adaptive reuse of buildings, sites, and neighborhoods that are of historic or architectural significance in Akron and Summit County.

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Please contact us via phone or email. We will make every effort to respond to your questions and comments as quickly as possible.

What You May Have Missed



On October 18th, PTP visited two houses of early settlers in Richfield, Ohio. Pictured on the left are the grand front staircase and parlor of the Orson Minot Oviatt House built in 1867 and now a bed-and-breakfast, The Cuyahoga Valley Inn. The second (no photograph) is a simple vernacular-style farmhouse built by Mason Oviatt and was an important stop on the Underground Railroad. It is in the earliest stage of restoration.

On November 13th, the public was invited to a brunch (pictured above) at the Fairlawn Country Club followed by speaker, Harriet Chapman, who spoke on the history and development of Fairlawn Heights. Alice Christie told the guests about our holiday members only meeting in December at Chateau Fifty. Between this informative meeting about Fairlawn and the excitement to tour the Harvey Firestone Jr. estate, a number of people joined PTP for the first time and some who had expired memberships renewed.