



Preservation House  
2074 West Market Street  
Akron, Ohio 44313-6916

# PROGRESS THROUGH PRESERVATION OF GREATER AKRON

## Annual PTP Picnic for Members and Their Guests Tuesday, August 22, 2017 GAR Hall, Peninsula



The restored GAR Hall in Peninsula

On **Tuesday, Aug. 22 at 6 p.m.** we will meet for **PTP's Annual Picnic, this year at the historic Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Hall in the lovely little Village of Peninsula.** The village is located on the Cuyahoga River halfway between Akron and Cleveland at a spot where the river makes a sharp turn, creating a "peninsula" of land. Founded in 1818, the town became a thriving stop on the Ohio and Erie Canal which linked the Ohio River and Lake Erie passing right through Peninsula. The Valley Railroad came through Peninsula 1880 and eventually rendered the canal obsolete. Later automobile travel did the same for the railroad. In the 1970s the tiny village (population 565 in 2010) was surrounded by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the revived railroad made Peninsula a thriving tourist attraction along its route.

The GAR Hall was built in 1851 and originally served as a one-room schoolhouse for Boston Township. When a new school was built across the street in 1887, the building was remodeled as a meeting place for Civil War veterans and became Grand Army of the Republic Post #272. As such it became the center for social activities in the village hosting meetings, weddings, funerals, parties and plays. It later served as a center for veterans of World War I, but by 1962 it had fallen into critical disrepair and was slated to be burned for firefighters' practice. Local preservationist Robert L. Hunker purchased the structure and restored it to its previous grandeur. It again serves as a venue for social activities such as our annual picnic.

After dinner our speaker will be Rebecca Jones Macko of the National Park Service who will talk on the Jaite Paper Mill and the company town of Jaite that was developed to provide housing for its workers. Little Jaite was located at the intersection of Riverview and Vaughn roads just up the road from the GAR Hall.

**Directions and Parking:** The picnic takes place at the GAR Hall in Peninsula which is located at the intersection of Riverview Road and Ohio Route 303. Limited handicap parking is available in front of the building. Others should park in the lot directly across the street on Route 303. **Do not park in the lot across Riverview Road.**

**Dinner:** The picnic is a potluck event. Attendees are asked to bring a salad, vegetable side dish, or a dessert to add to the buffet. PTP will provide: plates, napkins, tableware, cups, cold beverages, and the meat entrée. **This free event is limited to PTP members and their guests.**

In order for us to plan properly, we ask that you **RSVP by Friday, Aug. 18** by calling Alice Christie at 330-864-8364 or emailing [achristie@malone.edu](mailto:achristie@malone.edu) and indicating how many will attend and which food item you will be bringing.