



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

# PROGRESS THROUGH PRESERVATION OF GREATER AKRON

## PTP August Membership Meeting Tuesday, August 28, 2018 Annual Members' Picnic at Historic Zoar Village



Historic Zoar Village Today



Zoarites, circa 1850

**On Tuesday, August 28, the PTP annual picnic will be held in the 1868 schoolhouse at historic Zoar Village in Tuscarawas County.** Zoar, the most successful communal society in the history of the United States, was founded as a utopian farming community in 1817 by a group of German religious separatists. The site was named after the Biblical village to which Lot and his family escaped from Sodom. Zoar was remarkably successful and continued as a communal society until 1898 when it disbanded and the property divided among the members. A factor that certainly added to their success was the 1820s construction of the Ohio & Erie Canal adjacent to Zoar. One notable aspect of Zoarite values was their belief in the equality of all human beings. Within their community women were given the right to vote and hold office over 100 years before the U.S. granted suffrage.

While some of the historic buildings date to 1817 and the founding of the community, others were built in the 1830s when the community became more economically stable after the opening of the canal. Most of the community was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 as the Zoar Historic District. The Ohio History Connection (formerly the Ohio Historical Society) owns ten structures in the district and operates them as the Zoar Village State Memorial. The village was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 2016.

**Tour: A special tour for PTP members will begin at 4 p.m.** Costumed guides will take us through five important community buildings and provide the history of the community from 1817—1898. The presentation is quite thorough and allows for questions. **The cost of the tour is \$7.00 per person.** If you cannot make it for the tour do not despair! After dinner there will be a presentation on the village and its history in the schoolhouse.

**Dinner: The picnic is a potluck event.** Attendees are asked to bring a salad, vegetable dish, or a dessert to add to the buffet. PTP will provide: plates, napkins, silverware, cups, cold beverages, and the meat entrée.

**RSVP:** This free event is **open to PTP members only.** In order for us to plan properly, we ask that you **please RSVP by Friday, August 24 by calling Alice Christie at 330-864-8364 or emailing [achristie@malone.edu](mailto:achristie@malone.edu)** to indicate how many will attend, which food item you will be bringing, and whether you will join us for the tour.

**Directions & Parking:** From Akron take I-77 South to Exit 93, Bolivar/Ohio 212. Turn left onto Ohio Rt. 212 East and in 3 miles you will enter Zoar Village. As you enter the village, turn left onto Fifth street. In one block turn right onto Foltz street. The schoolhouse is located on Foltz, between Fourth and Fifth streets. There is a small parking lot adjacent to the schoolhouse and additional parking is available in a grassy parking area on Fifth. **The distance from West Akron is 40 miles and should take about 45-50 minutes.** Given the distance, members might want to consider forming a carpool that evening.