



# Green Historical Society

## Landmark No. 7—Aaron Swartz Home

### Historical Significance—The Aaron Swartz Family

Aaron Swartz was born May 22, 1832 to Christian Swartz and Elizabeth (Myers) Swartz. Aaron Swartz was born in Pennsylvania, as were his parents. He and his parents migrated to Summit County when Aaron was a child and settled near Lockwood Corners.

Aaron Swartz was a Second Corporal in Company H, 164<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of Ohio, which defended Washington, D.C. in the Civil War.

Aaron and Sophia Swartz were members of the Evangelical Association. Sophia's father was a circuit rider for the Evangelical Association and Aaron Swartz was a local preacher. Aaron Swartz purchased 23.84 acres from his father-in-law Henry Heiss in 1867. Aaron and Sophia Swartz built the property in 1882.

Aaron and Sophia Swartz did not have any biological children that lived until adulthood. However, they did raise and possibly adopt Henry Steese as their son. According to the death certificate of Henry Steese, his biological parents were a John Steese and a Mary Heiss. The biological parents of Henry Steese have not been confirmed, but it is noted that Sophia Swartz had a younger sister Mary Heiss. It is further noted that a John Steese from Green Township was killed in action in 1864. Henry Steese was born October 31, 1864. A stone inside the basement of the home is inscribed 'H.S. 1882.' Possibly this stone was inscribed for Henry Steese.

Sophia Swartz died June 20, 1893. Aaron Swartz then married Lora E. (Thursby) Swartz around 1895 (see 1900 Census). Aaron Swartz died April 3, 1912. In accordance with his will, Lora E. (Thursby) Swartz then conveyed 28.84 acres in Sections 10 and 27 (including the Walnut Woods property) to Vinnie Steese in 1913. Vinnie Steese (b. ~1888) was the daughter of Henry J. Steese and Katherine (Neitz) Steese. Henry J. Steese retained a life estate in the subject property.

Vinnie Steese married William N. Clause. According to Pauline Franks (longtime Green, Ohio resident), Henry J. Steese, Katherine Steese and their granddaughter Marian (first daughter of William Clause and Vinnie Steese Clause) lived on the property for several years. Marian's parents, William Clause and Vinnie Steese resided near Buchtel High School in Akron. After Vinnie Steese Clause's death in 1944, the property of the subject designation passed to Robert E. and William N. Clause. Robert E. Clause and wife Mary Clause (still a resident of Green) then raised their family in the home of the subject property.

### Architectural Significance

The home is a brick, high style, Italianate Victorian Farmhouse. The home features a symmetrical façade with a central gabled projecting wing with a 2-story bay window. Several examples of Victorian Cross-Gable Farmhouses were built in Green Township. However, the home is the only remaining brick Victorian Cross-Gable Farmhouse.

The home includes evenly spaced carved cornice brackets around the entire perimeter of the cross gabled roof. Decorative corbelled brick surrounds the cornice. The home has a two-story angled bay window complete with carved cornice brackets. A pair of Victorian porches with ornate turned posts and balusters flank either side of the bay window. Each porch has a respective entry with a 2-panel door and transom. The segmental-arched windows of the first and second story are each are topped with triangular hoodmolds with keystone and end blocks with a sunflower design.

The gable ends of the home have 2 bays and a small attic window in the gable face. Small porches at rear doors connect a small brick 1-story wind at the NW corner and a modern 1-story gabled brick addition at the SW corner.

The property also includes a Standard Forebay barn with gabled roof, vertical siding, banked door on the West, and a shallow overhand on the East. Window openings are louvered. Decorative Gothic arch designs are present in the gable end louvers.

The exterior of the home is in excellent condition with only minor modification to the original structure and details. A single-story modern gabled brick addition at the SW corner of the home.



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GREEN AND SPRINGFIELD—CO. H.  
From the same source is also compiled the company jointly furnished by Green and Springfield townships, as follows: Darius F. Hunsberger of Green (now D. F. Berger, of Akron) Captain; William S. Schrop, of Springfield, (now of Rittman, Wayne Co.,) First Lieutenant; D. J. Mottinger, of Green, Second Lieutenant; N. N. Leohner, Orderly Sergeant; Cyrus W. Harris, 2nd sergeant; Thomas Wright, Jr. 3rd sergeant; William Buchtel, 1st corporal; Aaron Swartz, 2nd corporal; F. G. Stipe, 3rd corporal; S. Breckenridge, 4th corporal; Jacob Long 5th corporal; J. A. Thompson 6th corporal; W. A. Chamberlain, 7th corporal; Jacob Weaver, 8th corporal; J. B. Kreighbaum, musician. Privates: J. B. Acker, W. Bender, H. Brumbaugh, J. W. Chamberlin, W. W. Coale, B. Chisnell, W. Cramer, E. Cramer, W. Dickelhoof, William Finkle, J. Foster, L. Fasnacht, G. H. Fasnacht, D. French, H. Foust, D. S. Foust, S. Foster, A. Fry, B. Goss, A. Grable, J. J. Grable, J. Grable, Jr., Ezra Harris, G. W. Hart, L. J. Hartong, L. Hartong, H. A. Henderson, W. G. Johnston, H. Jarrett, J. F. Krytser, M. Kline, A. Koons, E. Kuhns, David Kline, J. P. Kepler, O. Long, I. Long, W. D. Myers, J. J. Marsh, J. S. Miller, W. Miller, D. Pontious, N. Pontious, M. Ritter, W. H. Rininger, L. Ream, G. D. Ream, G. W. Ream, U. R. Sefner, J. M. Schrop, G. Sweitzer, William Steese, John Smith, H. Shriver, D. Stamm, R. S. Stout, P. H. Stout, D. H. Shutt, B. Strohecker, J. Staver, D. G. Shutt, Ira Spidle, Hiram B. Smith, G. Shutt, J. T. Tousley Robert Thompson, S. N. Weston, F. Winkleman, H. Yerrick, A. Yerrick, Alfred Yerrick—total 88.

### A VERY RARE OCCURRENCE—60 YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE.

—Tribute Correspondence of THE BEACON.

June 24.—Christian and Elizabeth Swartz celebrated the 60th anniversary of their marriage last Friday, the 20th inst. They were united in marriage by Rev. Batis on the 20th day of June, 1830, near Manheim, Lancaster County, Pa. In the year 1835 Christian Swartz and his wife emigrated from the State of Pennsylvania to the State of Ohio, and settled in Green township, Summit County (at that time Stark County.) But of later years his home has been near Lockwood's Corners, Coventry township, of this county. Last Friday, the 20th inst., quite a number of relatives, children, and their grandchildren gathered at the home of Mr. Swartz and his wife to celebrate his 60th anniversary of his marriage relation. All their children with their families were present, except one daughter who is married to Alexander Campbell, whose home is in Montana. After the relatives had spent some time in social talk with their father and mother, the children went to work and prepared a grand dinner, which was very tempting and relished by all parties present. Each one seemed to have a very good appetite. Dinner being over, all seemed to be cheerful and happy. After this the aged parents gathered into the sitting room with all their friends and by their request a short religious service was held consisting of reading of Scripture lesson and prayer by Rev. Grimm, of East Liberty, followed by an effective address suited to the occasion by Rev. Summers, of Greensburg.

The names of the children and their families, beginning with the oldest, are as follows: Aaron Swartz and wife Sophia, who reside in Greensburg; Jacob Swartz and wife Sarah and their children, Mary, Celista, Weisa, John, Henry and Lessa, their home is New Portage; Abraham Swartz, wife Mary E. and two children, Idiah and Ervin, who reside on the old homestead; Cornelius Johnston, of Tallmadge, who is married to the youngest daughter of Mr. Swartz, and their family consisting of two daughters, Misses Lizzie M. and Clara Bell. The aged parents were very much pleased to see their children and grandchildren come home, this the 60th year of their married life.

Christian Swartz is one of the oldest farmers in Summit County, and has been a Republican ever since the party was organized, and a reader of THE BEACON for a number of years. He also has been one of the first members of the Evangelical Association of Summit County.

REPORTER.

