

The Warren County Museum

By Elva R. Adams, Director

Don't miss the ice cream social on the village green Monday evening July 23, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Come early and meet your friends, neighbors and family. The Delmar Trio will provide music.

THE HAYNER HOUSE

For more than a century, the lovely Greek revival house commonly referred to as the "Hayner House" stood as a dignified sentinel on River Road bordering the Little Miami River near Deerfield (now South Lebanon) in Warren County, Ohio. Time and the elements played havoc with this stately house until in 1964 it was rescued for posterity. Now it has been dismantled, reassembled and is part of the Miami Purchase restoration village in Sharon Woods, Hamilton County, Ohio.

The land on which this house was built can be traced back to the John Cleve Symmes purchase in 1794 from the Congress of the United States under the administration of George Washington, a transaction involving almost 250,000 acres. More than one fourth of this land was sold to Jonathan Dayton who broke his purchase down into smaller parcels.

In 1799 one Benjamin Stites Sr. bought and sold to Nathan Kelly 320 acres for \$500.00. In 1837 the land was sold to Francis Lucas for \$1200.00. Mr. Lucas was apparently a well known farmer of the area for he is listed in Beer's History of Warren County as treasurer of Warren County from 1818 to 1821. Mr. Lucas died on May 11, 1845, but it is quite likely that the house was built sometime between 1837 and

1845. In May 1846 the 320 acres were sold at an executor's sale to Matthias Roosa for the handsome sum of \$8,400.00. Surely this increase in valuation would have been brought about by the erection of a fine house, but this cannot be authenticated.

It was almost twenty years later and after several subsequent owners that the property was purchased by John Monty Hayner. In 1863 Mr. Hayner began purchasing land between South Lebanon and Lebanon which in time would amount to more than 800 acres.

Mr. Hayner was born in Deerfield in 1828 and was one of ten children. He had only a meager education but much business acumen and he learned early that the price of success is hard work and consistent endeavor. His earliest working experience was in the grocery business, but after buying his land he farmed with great success.

In 1874 he, with two partners, embarked upon the sugar corn drying business and the "dry" house at the Deerfield property was built for this purpose and was the first one of this kind erected in the area. The business flourished for almost ten years when Mr. Hayner recognized the diminishing interest in dried corn and wisely set about converting his buildings and equipment to the canning process. Throughout the years Mr. Hayner improved his methods and machinery and in the early twentieth century his packing amounted to more than 40,000 cases of corn annually. Much of the corn he canned was raised on his farms.

After Mr. J.M. Haner moved closer to Lebanon, his son lived in the house on River Road and farmed that land.

Mr. Hayner moved to Lebanon in 1888 but he did not relinquish the management of his business. It is said that it was a familiar occurrence for him to drive his horse and buggy from his high Street home in Lebanon to Deerfield. By 1877 he had accumulated considerable wealth and was a heavy stockholder in the Lebanon National Bank when it was chartered. He was elected president in 1877 and held that office until 1913 when he retired at the age of 85.

Mr. Hayner was married three times and had five children, some of whom did not live to maturity. He died in 1916 and is buried in Deerfield Cemetery, South Lebanon.

As the years passed, the house that had once been a show place fell into disrepair from repeated floodings of the Little Miami River, lack of continuous occupancy and vandalism. At various stages in its existence the house has been painted white, gray and yellow. It is large, fourteen rooms with four on the second floor, only one of which was completed. A lovely curving staircase leads to the second floor. The ballroom on the first floor is about twenty-two feet square. A beautiful marble fireplace was on one wall but it was torn out and broken into pieces by vandals.

On one wall Mr. Hayner installed a large mirror six feet wide and fifteen feet tall. At one time the dining room had a lovely walnut plate rail on one wall and a glass china cupboard on another wall.

A second or "back" stairway led up out of the kitchen to two of the smaller rooms upstairs which would lead to the assumption that the unfinished rooms on the second floor were meant to be servants' quarters, but for some reason were never plastered and completed. It is reported by those who have lived in the house that there was a fireplace in every room on the first floor. The four chimneys on the house would be adequate for that many fireplaces.

At one period there was a furnace in the cellar which served the entire first floor, but lack of care soon put it out of order. There was also a carbide lighting system which piped gas lights to the first floor rooms, but it too was neglected and destroyed. Most of the original fixtures have not been in

the house in its later year.

It is said that there was access to a "widow's walk" on the roof during the 1860's and 1870's, but it had not been evident in later years. If that were the case, from that height guests could look up and down the Little Miami River and over the surrounding countryside.

Now once again the Hayner House has come into its elegant own and the four Greek columns across the front porch will serve as an interesting and attractive invitation to enter the house that has seen so much that was good and bad in more than a century of tumultuous existence.

I am indebted to many sources for information used in this story:

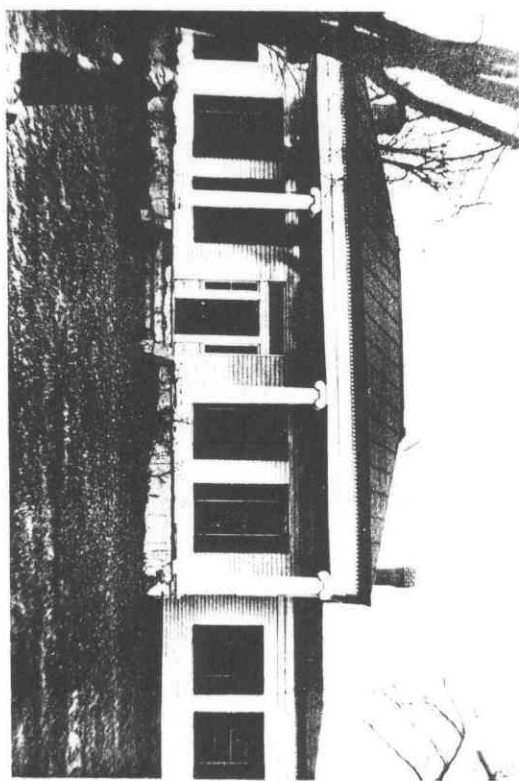
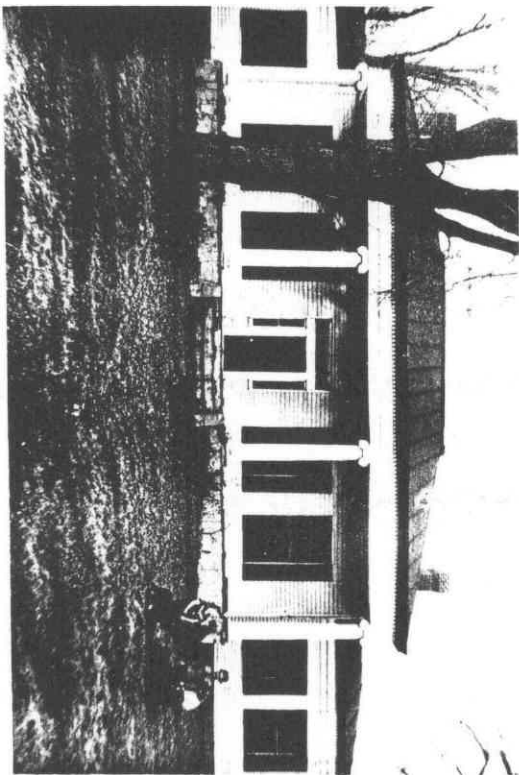
The courthouse records researched by Mr. Charles Fleishmann, Mrs. Hazel Phillips and Mr. Robert Kennedy.

Beer's History of Warren County

The 1875 and 1903 Atlases of Warren County

Miami Valley Families-vol. III
Information gleaned from the files of the Warren County Historical Society Museum library.

Interviews with person who lived in the house who prefer to remain nameless.



Greek Revival Farmhouse on the Lebanon Road
near South Lebanon, Ohio

The following comprises the fruit of research done by Robert Addison Kennedy, A.I.A., and Charles Fleischmann in the latter part of July, 1964 amid the deeds and records to be found at the Court House of Warren County, Ohio at Lebanon. The purpose of the search was to attempt to discover who had built the Greek Revival farmhouse on the Lebanon Road near South Lebanon, Ohio, known to many as the Hayner place, presently the property of Mr. Julius Fleischmann. We believe our researches cover the property in question. The house has been dismantled due to constant damage by annual spring floods. It is to be preserved and stored at Winding Creek Farm, Indian Hill, Hamilton County, Ohio, pending reconstruction at some future date.

These abstracts came from the book covering Warren County, Ohio property transfers as found in the volume concerned with Section 25, Township 5 East, Range 3 North.

George Washington to John Cleve Symmes, Vol. T, Pg.498
U.S.P.

Entire Military Range 3 248,540 acres. \$165,693.42
30th September 1794.

John Cleve Symmes to Jonathan Dayton, Vol. T, Pg. 702
by Warranty Deed Entire Range 67,345.5 acres (note
that this is 20.842 acres more than one quarter of the
military range granted to John Cleve Symmes by
George Washington)
\$42,897.00 30th October 1794.

Jonathan Dayton to Benjamin Stites, Sr., Vol.T, Pg.39
by warranty deed the whole of fractional section
(540 acres?) consideration = satisfaction. 14th May 1795.

Benjamin Stites, Sr. to Nathan Kelly, Vol.T, Pg. 174
by Warranty Deed with part of fractional section.
320 acres. \$500.00 23rd March 1799.

Obit 11th May 1843
Thursday

Nathan Kelly to Francis Lucas (b.23rd March 1784;
obit 11th May 1845) Vol. 22, pg. 85 by Warranty Deed.
The west side of section. 320 acres.
\$1,200.00 15th March 1837.

Francis Lucas to Matthias Roosa. Vol. 27, pg. 115.
Executor's sale. The west side of fractional section.
320 acres. \$8,400.00. 30th May 1846.

Matthias Roosa to John W. Roosa, Vol. 28, Pg. 557 by agreement, an undivided half interest.
The west side of fractional section. 320 acres.
\$6,000.00 2nd August 1848.

Matthias Roosa to Clinton D. Roosa, Vol. 28, Pg. 557 by agreement; an undivided half interest. The west side of a fractional section. 320 acres.
\$6,000.00 2nd August 1848.

Clinton D. Roosa to James M. Roosa. Vol. 32, Pg. 6 Warranty Deed. An undivided half interest. The west side of a fractional section. 320 acres.
\$9,000.00 23rd September 1850.

Matthias Roosa to John W. Roosa, Vol. 32, Pg. 2. Executor's action. An undivided half interest. The west side of a fractional section. 320 acres.
\$6,000.00 25th November 1851. (Does this mean that the "agreement" of 2nd August 1848 (see above) was confirmed by action of his executors at the death of Matthias Roosa to John W. Roosa on 23rd September 1850? The price is identical. This may well have been a proviso in the will of Matthias Roosa.)

John W. Roosa to James M. Roosa, Vol. 32, Pg. 4 Warranty Deed. An undivided half interest. The west side of a fractional section. 320 acres.
\$9,000.00 25th November 1851. (Note date with transaction immediately above.)

James M. Roosa to Joseph W. Rhoades (b. 7th October 1823; obit 29th May 1897), Vol. 36, Pg. 509. Warranty Deed. The west side of the section. 320 acres. \$32,000.00 2nd November 1857.

Joseph W. Rhoades to William W. Shurts, Vol. 37, Pg. 426. Warranty Deed. In the south part of the River. 110 acres. \$3,300.00 15th January 1859.

William W. Shurts to J. Mills and B. Kline. Vol. 39, Pg. 62. Warranty Deed. In the south part on the River. 110 acres. \$4,400.00 18th October 1860.

Joseph W. Rhoades to Francis Leonard (born 1827 - obit 1865) Vol. 39, Pg. 239. Warranty Deed. Near center on River 92.19 acres (two parcels ?)
\$3,684.75 21st January 1861.

J. Mills and B. Kline to G. Dixon and I. Parker,
Vol. 40, Pg. 203. Warranty Deed. In south part
on river. 110 Acres. \$5,200.00 9th May 1862.

Joseph W. Rhoades to John M. Hayner, Vol. 40, Pg. 463.
Warranty Deed. West part of section. 117-141 (two
parcels?) \$24,000.00 5th January 1863.

Francis Leonard to John M. Hayner, Vol. 41, Pg. 97.
Warranty Deed. Near center on river. 92-14 (two
parcels?) \$4,000.00 17th February 1863.

G. Dixon and I. Parker to John H. Young. Vol. 41,
Pg. 576. Warranty Deed. In south part on river.
110 acres. \$4,500.00 21st April 1864.

John H. Young to John M. Hayner. Vol. 43, Pg. 301.
Warranty Deed. In East part on North Side. 30 acres.
\$1,500.00 19th December 1865.

John M. Hayner to John H. Young. Vol. 47, Pg. 485.
Warranty Deed. In south part on river. 5 acres.
\$250.00 11th April 1870.

John H. Young to Joseph E. Hayner. Vol. 55, Pg. 535.
Warranty Deed. In south part on river. 80 acres.
\$5,000.00 7th March 1878.

Joseph E. Hayner to J. Mont. Hayner, Vol. 56, Pg. 489.
Warranty Deed. In south part on river. 80 acres.
\$5,000.00 13th January 1879.

J. Mont. Hayner et al to Charles D. Heald, Vol. 55,
Pg. 467. (M ?)
\$32,150.00 14th January 1915.
500 Acres (Part in Sec. 31.)

Charles D. Heald to Charles C. Hayner and Georgeana
Kidder, Vol. 103, Pg. 47. Warranty Deed. \$1.00
6th October 1917. 321.53 acres, part in Sec. 26.

Charles D. Heald to A. L. Snook and John Harding,
Vol. 103, Pg. 48. Warranty Deed. West side of
section; 160.55 acres, part in 31/5/3. \$1.00
6th October 1917.

Georgeana Kidder et al to Fred C. and Irene Hayner,
Vol. 103, Pg. 399. Op. conv. a life estate 321.53
acres; part in Sec. 26. No consideration.
26th December 1918.

A. L. Snook to John Harding. Vol. 116, Pg. 72.
Warranty Deed. West side of section. Undivided half
interest. \$1.00 29th December 1925.
160.55 acres -- part in Sec. 31.

John Harding, deceased to Harry Harding et al. Vol. 255,
Pg. 91 Certificate of Transfer. West side of section.
160.55 acres. 5th June 1956 Part in Sec. 31.

R. B. Satterthwaite, Sheriff to Julius Fleischmann,
Vol. 260, Pg. 459. Sheriff's Deed. West side of
section. 160.55 acres, part. \$60,600.00.
11th November 1956. In Sec. 31.

We conclude that the house was built either by Nathan
Kelly, who held the land from 1799 to 1837, or by Francis Lucas,
who held title from 1837 to 1846. We did not have the time to
do much research into either of the men. The records of the
Warren County Historical Society does not record anything mater-
ial about them.

--Charles Fleischmann

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11 August 1964 copies distributed:

Mr. Robert A. Kennedy
7 Elmhurst Place
Cincinnati 45208

Mrs. Phillips
Warren County Historical Society
Lebanon, Ohio

Mrs. John B. Tytus
8605 Old Indian Hill Road
Cincinnati 45243