

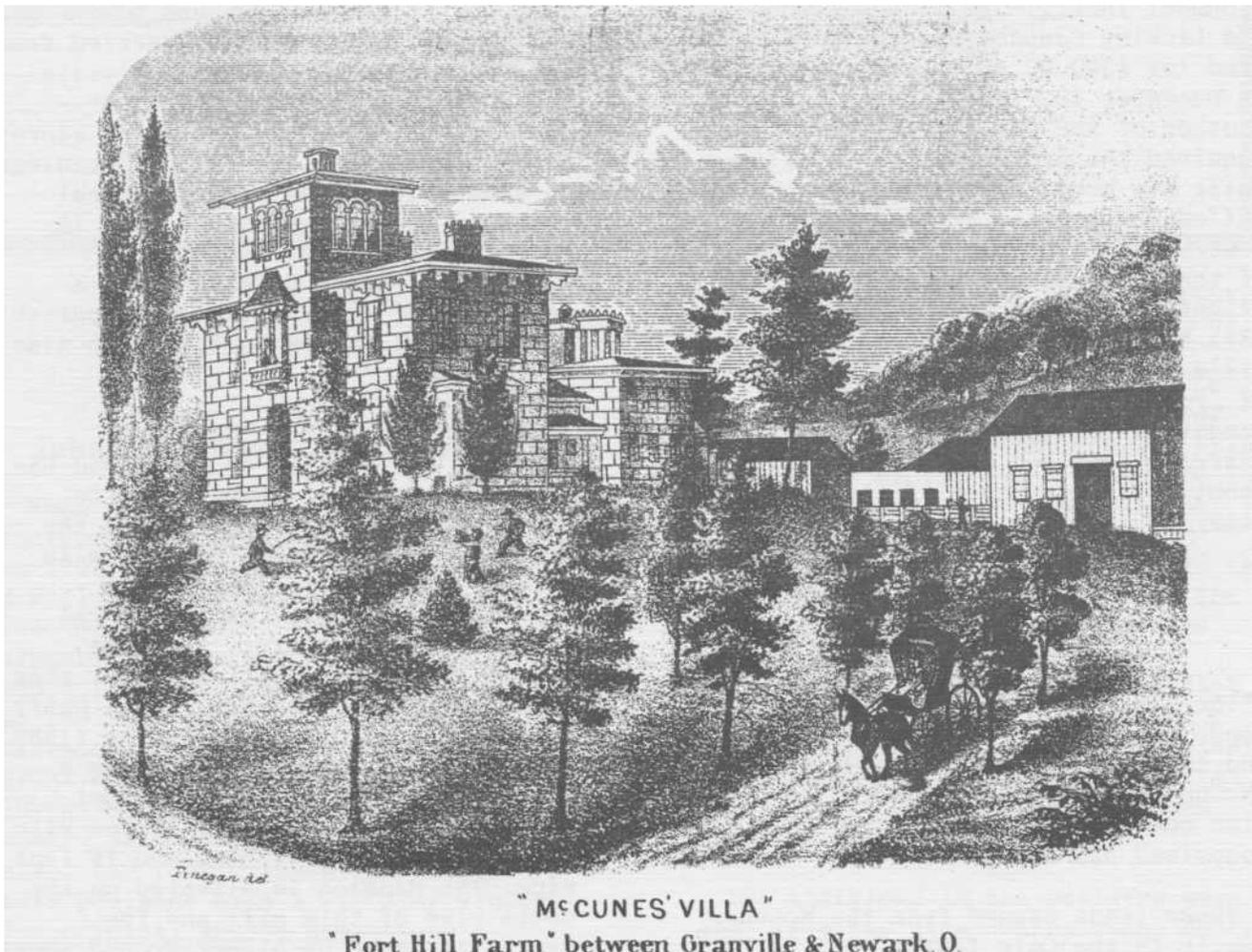
THE HISTORICAL TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANVILLE, OHIO, HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Bryn Du Farm and Bryn Du Mansion Granville, Ohio



Engraving from the 1866 Beers and Soule Atlas of Licking County, Ohio

The site of Bryn Du Mansion is unique in the topography of Granville Township. It lies in the northeast corner of a rectangle two miles long and one and one-half miles wide. In this area are five hills which are topped by earth structures roughly from 200 feet to 900 feet in diameter. One is topped by an effigy mound, the Alligator, second in size only to the Great Serpent Mound in Adams County, Ohio.

The Mansion is located on the south slope of the largest hill known as "Fort Hill" to the first settlers in Granville. It is less than two-thirds of a mile east from the Alligator Mound.

Samuel Thrall, one of the members of the Licking Company, purchased this land for \$300.00 at the sale of vendue on December 10, 1805. Joseph Linnell, another of the early settlers, acquired the property from Thrall and built his house near the road then called Centerville Street, later the Newark Road. In 1860 the north portion of the land was purchased by Henry D. Wright, a village business man and in 1865 he built an imposing Italianate Villa type house on the southern slope of "Fort Hill." The light buff sandstone for this building was quarried from the crest of the hill about 200 yards north of the building site.

" McCune's Villa"

The villa and farm passed into the hands of Jonas McCune within a year and the building became known as "McCune's Villa." The land at this time consisted of three farms and comprised 325 acres.

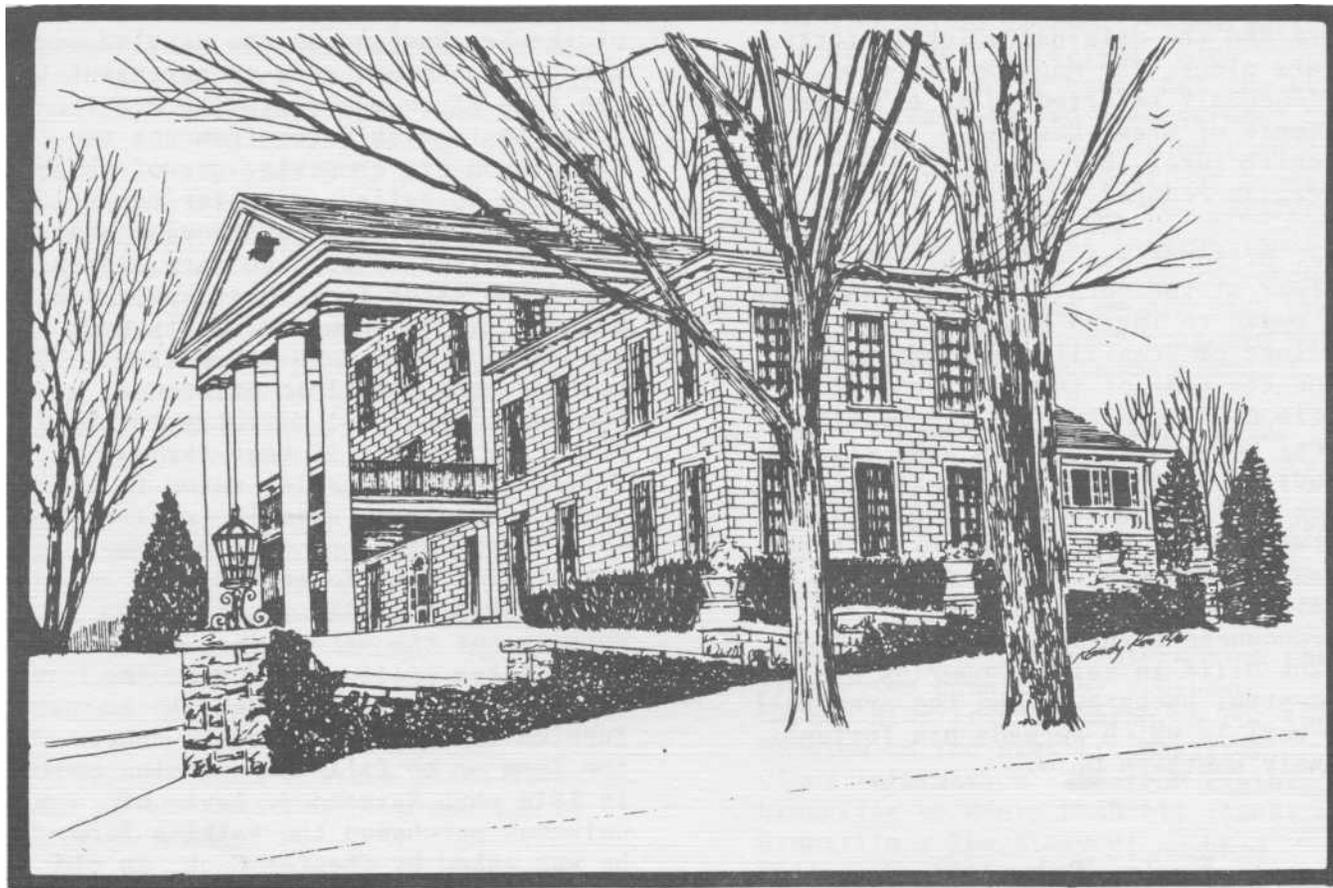
These lands passed from the McCune family to the Cole family, to the Birkham family and then in 1905 to

John Sutphin Jones who started at once to reconstruct the house and to extend his land holdings. During the years 1908 through 1920 he purchased land from Clear Run to the west and Cherry Valley Road to the east, giving him a holding of one and one-half miles east to west. This immense farm land extended north from the south line of roadside properties to the Welsh Hills Road on the west and along a north boundary ranging from 8 miles to 1.2 miles from the Newark Road. He set aside a large tract in the west section for the construction of the fine 18-hole golf course designed by Donald Ross and retained the remainder of the land as a large cattle farm.

The Italianate villa as built by Henry D. Wright in 1865 was constructed of sandstone quarried from the hill above the house. The villa had a central three-storey tower flanked by two wings. The third storey of the tower had three arched openings on each side and an arched central entrance facing the south. When it later became the Birkham family property, Francis Birkham added a large second floor solarium supported by four large piers on the south side of the tower.

The Mansion at Bryn Du is an imposing building of 52 rooms and has 12 fireplaces. It occupies a site about one-quarter mile north of the Newark-Granville Road, and one mile directly east of the Village of Granville. The hill, among several others in the vicinity, may have served as a fortification rather than as a ceremonial or burial site. Henry Bushnell's History of Granville (1889) describes the earthwork on it as a circular enclosure about 970 feet across, enclosing about 17 acres with embankments **six** feet high and 18 feet wide. The Mansion is situated on the south rise of this hill and the quarry is found on higher ground about 200 yards to the north of the Mansion.

Bryn Du Mansion as it Appears Today



Drawing by Randy Rose, courtesy of Fanchion Lewis

John S. Jones Alterations

When John S. Jones, a coal and railroad magnate, bought the property in 1905, he employed Frank L. Packard, a well known Columbus architect, to remodel the house. Packard spent almost five years on the project. He added the wings increasing the width of the house from 100 to 140 feet. The Birkham solarium was removed and a great Federal style portico was installed on the south wall of the tower. This portico, three stories high, has four columns that support a full pediment with a circular window. The original arched Romanesque entrance was altered to an elaborate Federal style opening with elliptical fanlight and side lights with delicate tracery.

The interior has a combination of Federal and Georgian motifs. The trim over-mantle of the major rooms are in the Georgian style, the mantles of the smaller rooms are Federal. The decorative plaster ceilings are in the Adams (Federal-McIntire) manner. The architect was unable to create the typical central hall and grand staircase of the Federal period that Jones wanted because of the massive stone walls of the tower. The present staircase runs from the right of the central hall and it cannot be seen from the entrance.

The additions to the building were made from the same quarry stone as the original and the architect carefully reproduced the size and texture of the older ashlar blocks. However, in bright sunlight a slight difference in

color can be detected between the new work and the original which is forty years older. The Mansion has been erroneously referred to as a "perfect example of Greek Revival architecture", but it is really Georgian-Federal.

J. S. Jones was at the height of his career at the turn of the century when he began to lavish his wealth on the Village of Granville. Monomoy House (now the home of the President of Denison University) had become his local town house. At the same time he acquired properties in the vicinity, then in 1905 he acquired the acreage between Clear Run and Cherry Valley Road to become a country place for his family. He named it Bryn Du (pronounced Bryn Dee) which means Black Hills in Welsh, honoring his ancestral background and the area full of coal in which he made his fortune, namely southern Ohio.

Early Tales

There are two interesting items concerning the area known as Bryn Du farms. When it was owned by Joseph Linnell, known to be an ardent abolitionist, it was said to be a place where runaway slaves were hidden at his farm house between 1830 and 1834. All the traces of this farm house have been lost. The other story, according to Theophilus Little III, was that the local Republican Party originated in the parlor of "Uncle" Joseph Linnell's home on Centerville Street (Newark-Granville Road) late in 1854 after the National Republican Party was formed July 6, 1854 in Jackson, Michigan. It was composed of dissident Federalists and Whigs after the debates over popular sovereignty in Kansas.

Dave Watkins owned the 100-acre farm directly north and adjoining Bryn Du farm. He was a descendent of the early Welsh settlers of the area who had

pioneered the land prior to the coming of the New Englanders who settled Granville. He had made an agreement in the form of an easement with J. S. Jones to furnish water from the two springs on his property, one of which produces 90 gallons of water per minute, to the watering troughs and the buildings on Bryn Du farm. Jones piped the water from these springs by means of a pump house directly back of the Mansion into a 60,000 gallon holding tank (still in existence) at the top of the hill directly to the north. By gravity it went through a filter house to furnish water to the house and a large swimming pool to the east of the Mansion. At some time before his death Jones and Dave Watkins had a "falling out" and Watkins cut the water lines to the farm. Water wells were dug on the farm, but they were inadequate to furnish the supply necessary to run the farm or to fill the swimming pool. In 1948 when Raymond J. Lewis of Columbus purchased the Watkins farm, he was asked by Chester Cook, an old friend, to again hook up the water lines. This was done, but unfortunately, the swimming pool had deteriorated and would not hold water. This arrangement continued until just before the property passed out of the hands of Jones' daughter, Mrs. Sallie Sexton. At the time of the original arrangement water from the springs was piped into the tenant houses along Granville Road. The easement was abrogated by mutual agreement when the Wrights acquired the property. The swimming pool was filled in and is now the parking lot to the east of the Mansion. The overflow from the springs furnished the water for the large pond in the pasture on the farm.

Sarah Follett Jones died in 1919 at age 64. Jones remarried in 1920. His second wife was Alice Baxter of Chicago. From this marriage two daughters, Sallie (Sarah) and Alice Virginia, were born. After their father's death, the estate was divided

between them - Sallie getting the property to the west of what is now Jones Road which included the Mansion and farm buildings. The land east of Jones road to Cherry Valley Road became the property of Alice Virginia. Since she lived in the East, her land was always farmed with the other section.

At the time of Jones' death, June 22, 1927, the estate was administered by Chester Cook of Columbus, a life-long friend and business associate in the mining business. Under his able care the farm prospered. Crops were rotated, fences and buildings kept in good repair. An outstanding dairy herd known for the fine quality of its milk was also part of the operation. The farm had a capable manager in John White and an efficient maintenance manager in Henry Dyker, both having been associated with Jones in business. Dyker's widow still lives in one of the cottages on a section of Bryn Du Farm.

Sallie Jones Sexton's Years

When Chester Cook died, the Court appointed Colonel Carlton Dargusch, an attorney from Columbus as the trustee of the estate. He was a good friend of Mrs. Sexton and was suggested by her. Later, Mrs. Sexton took over personal management of the estate. Her primary interests, however, lay in breeding and showing hunters along with the production of Playhouse on the Green near Delaware, Ohio. In addition, the fortunes of the Sunday Creek Coal Company were said to be declining. John White, the farm manager retired and not long afterward Henry Dyker died. Neither were replaced.

Due to neglect and poor management the farm deteriorated and finally the entire estate was bankrupt. William and Ortha Wright bought the Mansion, the golf course and the farm. The Mansion was beautifully restored and

was used as an elegant restaurant for a short time. The Wrights also restored the horse barn, but the big frame dairy barn had deteriorated to the point where it had to be torn down. Other buildings, all of stone, are yet to be restored. The property is now owned by Quest International, a non-profit organization which reaches over 1,000,000 young people each year all over the world with programs to promote positive youth development.

Bryn Du Mansion is a well-known landmark not only in this community, but in the State. It has an interesting history and well deserves the place it holds on the National Register of Historic Places.

NOTE: Most of this information came from notes compiled by Professor Horace King from research to put the Mansion on the Historic Register. Other information came from History of Granville by Henry Bushnell (1889) and Granville - The Story of an Ohio Village by William T. Utter (1956). The second edition of this book was republished by the Granville Historical Society in 1987.

--Fanchion R. Lewis,
President, Granville
Historical Society

GRANVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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Granville Chronology

This section of the chronology of Granville by Horace King covers the period from September 1804 through August 1805.

1804 Names attached to Constitution of Sept. 12 but not to Compact of April 3 -cont.

Nathan Allyn	William Cooley	Augustine Munson	Roswell Rowley
Nathan Allyn for son	Giles Dayton	Jesse Munson, Sr.	Roswell Rowley for son
George Avery	Elias Gilman	Jesse Munson, Jr.	Nobel Sheldon
Daniel Baker	Justin Hillyer	Jeremiah R. Munson	Thomas S. Sill
David Baker	Ephraim Howe	Elias Pomeroy	Charles Slocum
Ethan Clark	John Johnson	William Reynolds	Samuel H. Smith
James Coe	Jedadiah H. Lewis	Martin Root	Timothy Spelman for son
George Cooley	Elkanah Linnel	Gad Rose	Samuel Thrall for son
			Daniel Wadsworth

Three names to Compact but not to Constitution:

Reuben Ashman, Levi Cooley and Asa Seymour

1805 February 1: Land negotiations completed

February 25: The Company adjourned " to the first Munday of December next, at nine o'clock in the morning to meet on the Hardy section which the Company purchased in the State of Ohio for the purpose of making the first division of Lands which the Company owns in Sd. State "

The Company also voted a library: Job Case, Sylvanus Mitchell and Timothy Rose Organized as Granville Alexandrian Society - the first library board: Elias Gilman, Timothy Rose and Timothy Spelman, directors. Samuel Thrall, treasurer and Hiram Rose, librarian

May 1: Organization of settlement church by Rev. Timothy Mather Cooley
"ON the first of May, A.D. 1805, the following persons, at their request, organized into a Christian Church. "

Samuel Everitt	Mindwell Everitt	Lemuel Rose	Achsa Rose
Israel Wells	Cloe Wells	Zadock Cooley	Michel Cooley
Joseph L. Linnel	Zeruah Linnel	Hiram Rose	Sabra Rose
Timothy Rose	Lydia Rose	Levi Hayes	James Thrall
Samuel Thrall	Tryphosa Thrall	Samuel Everitt, jun.	Mrs. Hannah Craves
Job Case	Elizabeth Case	Silas Winchel	Mrs. Cavet
Roswell Craves	Hannah Graves	Mrs. Abigail Sweatman	

Timothy Rose and Levi Hayes, Deacons - Samuel Everitt, jun., Clerk
Pastor Cooley closed the organization meeting with his "Farewell Sermon "
from Exodus 33:15, " If Thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence. "

March-April: First advance party to plant corn for the fall harvest - Elihu Cooley, Gideon Cornel, Titus Hoskin, Elkanah Linnel, Elias Pomeroy

May-July: Second advance party to build a mill and cabins--Timothy Spelman, craftsman and leader, Ethan Bancroft, carpenter, Hugh Kelley, blacksmith, John Phelps, millwright, and Cornelius Slocum, handyman.
Summer storms washed out two dams and mill project was abandoned.

July-August: Third advance party to lay out 100-acre farms and run lines for village plat. James Coe, surveyor, Sereno Holcomb, Joshua Kendall, William Reynolds and Samuel Waters.
Levi Buttles laid out village similar to his New England plan for Worthington. He then quit the Granville company to join his family in Worthington and Timothy Rose was elected acting president in his absence. Samuel Everett was given power of Attorney to act for **Buttles**.

Organization of the migration party with Timothy Rose as leader. He advised the migration company of 170 people to divide into smaller family groups because of lack of accommodations along the way.



Victoria Claflin Woodhull is honored

On September 24, 1988, 150 years after her birth, a historic marker honoring the life and achievements of Victoria Claflin Woodhull was placed in her birthplace, Homer, Ohio. Following the public ceremony in Homer, a banquet was held in the Robbins Hunter museum in Granville. More than 90 persons attended, including 16 members of the Claflin family. The dinner was highlighted by musical selections, speeches and an illustrated talk on Victoria's life by Dr. Suzanne Condray, Denison University, Department of Speech Communication. Copies of the Resolutions commemorating the anniversary, passed by both the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate were presented to the members of the Claflin family. The United States Senate also passed a Resolution to commemorate the occasion.

The Robbins Hunter Museum is a particularly appropriate place to honor Victoria Claflin Woodhull. A whimsical bell tower and clock on the west facade of the building is the only monument to her in the United States.

Museum News

Your museum is a popular attraction. During the summer 816 persons signed the museum log. They represented 27 states and four foreign countries including 9 from England.

The Annual Dinner

Mark your calendar for November 7, 1988 and join us at 6:30 p.m. for the Annual Banquet of the Society at the Old Academy Building. Entertainment will be provided by the Ohio Village Singers from the Ohio Village in Columbus. They will appear in costume and present a program of nineteenth century songs. Invitations will be mailed to all members. Be sure to make your reservations.

The Historical Times is included with membership and is sent to all members of the Society. Questions or comments may be sent to:

Editors
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Anthony Lisska, Mary Ann Malcuit



From the Archives--

**Lulu Howard, in the doorway, and her pupils in the Hitt School,
on the Columbus Road, about 1914.**



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