

## AVALON – Col. Jacob Hyer – H. L. Dickey



AVALON was constructed in a style known as Italian Villa. The brick house has been painted gray and parts covered with gray, asbestos shingles. A hiding area constructed in the basement to house fugitive slaves has been covered with cement blocks.

# Old Dickey Mansion Has Noble History

Avalon, the original name of the large mansion on Short Dickey av. is an important part of Greenfield's history, both for the families who lived there and the part the house played in helping to shape American history in the mid-1800's.

The name Avalon was given the dwelling by its builder and first inhabitant, Col. Jacob Hyer, commander of Ohio's 73rd Regiment, an Ohio senator, and avid abolitionist. Presently, it is commonly called the Old Dickey Mansion, after Judge Henry L.

Dickey, a well-known orator of the time and member of the House of Representatives. Its present owner and inhabitants are the Alonzo Eubanks family.

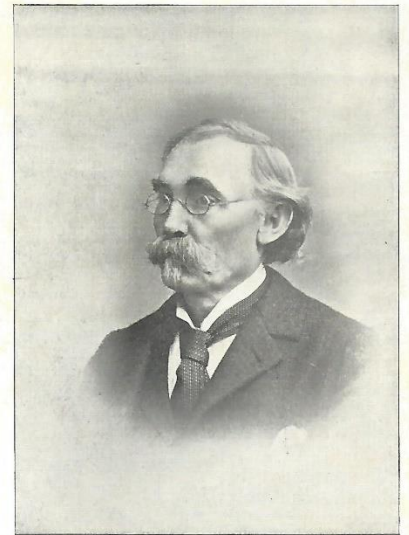
Built in 1858, the house soon became a stop along the Underground Railroad which transported slaves from the South to Canada. The most famous slave reported to have been housed at Avalon was the woman known as Eliza in Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Later the house became a retirement home of Judge

Dickey, a name prominent in many of the efforts and experiments tried in Greenfield during the late-1800's.

Dickey, it is reported, worked hard in the 1870's to uncover corruption in American government. Apparently, he was as unsuccessful as the others who tried.

The historic inventory of Avalon was prepared by Mrs. Kandy Wilson, head of the Highland County Task Force of the South - Central Ohio Preservation Society.



HON. H. L. DICKY, President Commercial Bank.

## Henry L. Dickey Had Brilliant Career as Lawyer and Legislator; Was Known as the "Orator of the Plain"

Henry L. Dickey was considered Greenfield's greatest citizen during a career in the law, politics and public life which began in the late 1850s and extended through the close of the 20th Century.

He made his public debut on July 4, 1885, at a great celebration held in Bessemer Grove, Greenfield's favorite picnic ground at the western extremity of Jackson st., at which the Greenfield Agricultural Society was organized. Virtually from that time on, Dickey was known as the "Orator of the Plain." He had just returned from the study of law and he was destined to attain great heights.

His talents revealed him as a "Gentleman and a Gentleman." His political opinions gave him the sobriquet of the "Strenuous Blunder" a reference to his fiery ardor and his "Friend and foe" who recognized his brilliance and political acumen.

In 1870, his supporters presented him as a candidate for Congress from the Seventh Ohio District, an office held since 1872 by J. T. Neal of Ross county.

At the nominating convention held in Hillsboro on July 18, some of his opponents were surprised. On the first ballot, Neal, ironically called "Nappy," led by a wide margin but still lacked the necessary majority. The second vote on the 20th ballot when some of the candidates began to withdraw and three more supported Dickey. He was nominated on the 25th ballot.

He attracted an impressive and well-planned administrative cabinet. His Republican opponent, a Rev. Brown, and came through with flying colors, winning his seat in Congress by over 1,000 votes.

He went to Washington and quickly found he soon. Searching through bills introduced in the House, he found nearly 50 which, in carefully considered terms,

"hardest corporations" -- paid little attention to the "ignominious backside law," and "it was the confidence of blindness" as an editorial in the Baltimore Evening Sun. "The program was killed," continued the editor, "when Mr. Dickey of Ohio delivered his masterly speech. Youthfulness of his present business was so thorough and so aggressive. Indeed, from the day of the delivery of the speech, the railroad industry never had the glint of a star for success."

Dickey was returned to Congress in 1878 for a second term, and secured a percentage of nine in the Capital City. Even former D. West, whose "Capital City" was a main goal throughout the country, devoted much space to him, she referred to his life in "the pleasant little city of Greenfield, near Cincinnati," where he and his family are still. Another beloved Judge Dickey is the most gentle friend and largest...

### THE HISTORY OF JOHNSON COUNTY, MISSOURI-Warrensburg Township

J. Hyer

Perhaps no sketch in this work will be read with more interest than that of J. Hyer, who was born in Ross County, Ohio, September 18, 1818. His father and mother were both natives of Hardy county, Virginia, and died at advanced ages, one that of 86 years. Remained at home until he reached his twenty-sixth year, then started out for himself as a grain dealer and other pursuits. Was a director of Marietta & Cincinnati railroad, and had charge of the real estate department of the same. In 1856 was elected to the Ohio Senate by the largest majority given in the state. In 1863 was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the 73rd Ohio, and served in the Virginia campaign. Married a niece of Senator Harris of New York in 1852, Miss Sayre; they have five children living. Himself and wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, and are among the ones who are fully identified with its work and interest. The farm consists of three hundred and sixty-five acres, well improved, and the house is built on one of the finest locations to be found in this part of the county; standing in the center of an elevation you can have an unobstructed view of all directions. Mr. Hyer, though advanced in years, has the appearance of much younger man.