



# Green Historical Society

## Landmark No. 3—Levi J. Hartong Farm

**Historical Significance**—The Levi Hartong House and Farm is locally significant in representing patterns in agriculture, as a nineteenth-century Summit County, Ohio farmstead anchored by a farm house and a substantial 1883 Standard barn, along with additional agricultural outbuildings, ponds, associated agricultural fields, and a family graveyard. The property is also significant for its architecture, including the Eastlake design elements evident in the house, and the presence of the Standard barn, a former agricultural mainstay on Eastern Ohio farms. The Hartong Farm is an important surviving link to the nineteenth-century agricultural heritage of Green Township.

Moses Grable was farming this tract prior to the 1839 acquisition of the property by his father, Jonathan. Jonathan Grable farmed the property for nearly two decades until relocating to the village of Greensburg, where he died in 1856. Grable and other members of his family are buried in a small family graveyard on the property. Cyrus Hartong purchased the farm from the Grables in 1859. He was a member of one of the Pennsylvania Dutch families who settled Green Township. His father, Jacob Hartong, was born in 1796 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, and moved to Green Township where he lived until his death in 1869.5 Jacob Hartong's son, Cyrus (1816-1897) wed Elizabeth Wetzel and acquired the Grable farm in 1859, when his own son, Levi, was fifteen years of age. Levi J. Hartong (1844-1927) was born in Green Township, one of the ten children of Cyrus and Elizabeth Hartong. Levi Hartong and his wife Sevilla (Yerrick) Hartong purchased 116 acres of land from Levi's parents, Cyrus and Elizabeth (Wetzel) Hartong, in 1873. In 1883, Levi and Sevilla built the main two-story portion of the home and barn. The northernmost portion of the home may pre-date the main portion of the home and may be the first homestead of Levi and Sevilla Hartong or the homestead of Levi's parents. Levi Hartong and his family would farm the property for the balance of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century. The majority of the buildings on the property were erected by Levi Hartong, including the farmhouse and the Standard barn.

**Architectural Significance** - The farmhouse dates from c. 1883 and is wood frame in construction. The home was originally built in a bilaterally asymmetrical cruciform-plan (cross gable). The house rests on a foundation of tooled sandstone blocks and features an intersecting gable roof system, penetrated by red brick chimneys. Each porch retains its original form and detail, including porch skirting and turned support posts and pilasters, spindle balustrades, and locally distinctive sawn and turned wood trim. This trim includes brackets, decorative intrados in the arches of the porches, pendants, and stylized dentil bands along the fascia, characteristic of the Eastlake style which was popular when the house was erected. Two entries access the interior from each porch; the doorways retain their historic wood doors, with glazed upper sections and paneled lower sections, and historic wood screen doors, trimmed with turned ornament.

The bank barn is an approximately 45' x 90' timber-frame Standard Pennsylvania barn finished in vertical wood boards. The barn rests on a tooled sandstone foundation and has a laterally oriented gable roof of slate. A date stone on the foundation of the barn bears the inscription L.J. HARTONG and the date 1883. All four sides of the barn are penetrated by a series of louvered vents with decorative curvilinear heads. The forebay faces east, allowing the direct sun to warm the livestock, and a wagon ramp accesses the barn from the west, opening into a generous hay mow and granary. A fenced barnyard is immediately east of the barn. The barn reflects the Pennsylvania German heritage of the Hartong Family and the Pennsylvania German building traditions prevalent in Green at the time of construction.



Our Deutchland Ancestors  
Eileen Rhine Lisic 1988



125

LEVI J. HARTONG  
(My Great Grandfather)

LEVI J. HARTONG was born 24 October 1844 on Mt. Pleasant Road. He was the second son of Cyrus and Elizabeth Wetzel Hartong.

The year Levi was born, Texas had not yet been admitted to the Union. Diplomatic relations with Mexico was at a standstill and we were not too far away from the war with Mexico.

Levi attended the local school and helped with work on the farm. When Levi was nineteen and his brother Lewis, twenty-two, they both volunteered to fight in the Civil War.

Lewis and Levi were in the 164th Regiment Ohio Volunteers, which was a group of One Hundred Day men who served in the defenses around Washington D.C., mostly Forts Strong and Woodbury on Arlington Heights. They were mustered in on the 11th day of May 1864, at Camp Cleveland, Ohio by 1st Lt. C. B. Throckmorton and mustered out with their company on 27 August 1864. I have never heard that he might have seen Abraham Lincoln. Ellery Hartong has his grandfather's bayonet.

Two years later on October 11, 1866, Levi was married to Sevilla Yerrick who lived on a farm nearby. (Please note the spelling on this document, Sevilla Yerrick, Sevilla Yarrick, and her father signed the consent to the marriage as Simon Yark).

To this union, like so many of the older families, many children were born. I had been told that Sevilla had thirteen children, ten surviving to adulthood. However, records at the old section of Greensburg Cemetery shows or did show that four children died, making a total of fourteen.

I do not know just where Levi and Sevilla lived after their marriage, but on September 6, 1873 Cyrus and Elizabeth, parents of Levi, sold him 116.52 acres of land in Section 34, Green Twp., facing Mt. Pleasant Road for \$9,492.75. The deed reserved fifteen square feet about old gravesites and also the privilege of a road from the lot to the Massillon Road. Cyrus bought the property from the heirs of Moses Grable. The only stone on the site several years ago was that of Jonathon Grable.

Ten years later, in 1883, Levi and Sevilla now had seven living children, the three oldest boys were in their teens, Levi built the lovely house and barn shown on the following page.

Sevilla's father, Simon Yerrick (Yark) died in July of 1885. Simon owned a farm of 160 acres, which was the southeast quarter of Section 32, situated on Arlington Street Extension and Mt. Pleasant Road. He had purchased this land around 1850.

On the deed to Simon's farm, he indicated that his farm was never to be sold to Levi Hartong. We wonder what went on between Simon and his son-in-law to cause such a situation. We can only speculate.

In any event, Levi must have really wanted his father-in-law's property, for by "hook or crook" he got it. Following are copies of documents, showing how he was able to get possession of it.

One of the documents shows that Levi Hartong, by public auction, conducted by Sheriff D. R. Bunn paid \$11,100.00 for the property on the 29th day of March 1890. The legal document was Transferred and Recorded on April 17, 1890. Levi now had his coveted farm.

132



Margaret Hartong Snyder (daughter of Clarence Hartong and the writer when we visited Levi Hartong's former home. (Note: L.J.Hartong 1883) This home now belongs to the Belden Brick Company or one of the owners. In a recent letter from William H. Belden, he advised that in 1920, the Beldens and the Hartungs invested in the Belden Brick Company. Lewis B. Hartung was president and Paul W. Hartung was treasurer. I wrote to Paul Hartung Jr. who is active in the company to see if he were a descendant of Philip Hartung, but he did not answer. David Hartung is also active in the business.



SEVILLA



LEVI