

# The Cooke-Kuhlman House

1897-Present

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*Currently Representative of the 1930s and 50s*

## Weekend Checklist

- Please arrive **15 minutes** before the start of open hours
- Opening
  - Unlock the main door with your key fob and then twist the ring on the inner door handle to unlock the door for guests
  - Turn on all lights
    - Foyer
      - 2 lamps
    - Library
      - 3 lamps
      - 2 display cases
    - Doctors Wing
      - Hallway
      - Waiting Room
      - Office
      - Exam Room
    - Parlor
      - 4 lights
      - 1 display case
    - Dining Room
      - Overhead light
    - Kitchen
      - Overhead light
    - Upstairs Landing
      - Overhead light
      - Spotlights
      - 1 display case
    - Guest Room
      - 1 overhead light
    - Sylvania Room

- 3 display cases
- 1 wall switch
- Place the open sign out and flip the door sign
- If applicable, put out an exhibit, a frame, or yard sign
- If needed:
  - The broom and dust pan are located in the back staircase storage closet
  - Extra restroom supplies are there as well
- Closing
  - Return any signs, flip the door sign, and put out the closed sign
  - Turn off all of the lights
  - Check that the inner door handle ring has been turned back to lock the door handle. Close the door tightly and activate the alarm system
    - Command - Enter
    - Arm
    - Enter code: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Wait until it starts counting down
    - Leave and shut the door, making sure it has latched successfully

## History of the Cooke/Kuhlman House

Although the house was home to the Cooke and Kuhlman family for most of its existence, there were many hand offs of the property from the origination of Sylvania to now.

The land was originally part of Michigan until David White and William Wilson purchased the wooded area. Eventually, the land was claimed as part of Ohio. The particular block of land that the house now sits on, at the beginning was considered Block 33.

- 6-16-1836 - The property became a part of Sylvania Township, of Lucas County, Ohio.
- 7-20-1843 - Property was purchased by Horace Green - All Block 33 except for the school lot.
- 5-12-1846 - The property was purchased by John U. Pease.
- 12-14-1854 - The property was purchased by John H. Parker.
- 3-30-1897 - The property was transferred to Almira Parker after John's death.
- 7-16-1897 - The property was purchased by Uriah Cooke
- 4-2-1901 - Ethel Cooke was added to the property deed.
- 3-19-1952 - The property is transferred to Elizabeth Kuhlman after the death of her parents.
- 9-15-1989 - The property is transferred to Marilyn Enz after the death of her parents.
- 5-10-1990 - The property is purchased by the Louisville Title Agency for N.W. Ohio Inc.
- 1993 - The property is purchased by the City of Sylvania.

There is some debate as to when the house was actually built. Some believe that there was a

house built on the property during the time that John Parker owned the land.

However, some

also believe that Uriah Cooke was the first one to build a home on the land.

## Architecture of the Home

The house is a large four-square with decorative elements of the Victorian Gothic and the Classical Revival period. It is said that the remodel of 1902-1905 was designed by a Toledo Architect. The house may have always been painted white, but in that earlier period, it was more common to have two or more colors to show off the details, and this house sure has some finer ones!

Looking at images of the house from its original state when the Cookes purchased it in 1897 vs it's remodel in 1902-1905, it seems we can guess what was original vs what was an addition. We see the original structure had the front door facing East with a stretch of exterior wall jutting out until you reach the wrap around front porch. The second floor, just above the front door and front rooms, had two windows facing south, along the east, just above the front door was one window and then one more window along the south side that is cropped in. If we look at the house after the remodel, we see that same exact layout along this side of the house. This tells us that the front door, foyer and parlor room were original. This also means the second-floor small bedroom on the south side and the front south bedroom were original, as well. I also believe that the second-floor storage attic room was also original.

The original house wasn't as wide, so it would make sense that the library was not a part of the original house. There was originally a door at the front of the house to what would now be the doctor's office waiting room. The space looks to be very small, though. Therefore, we think with the remodel, they added the doctor's exam room, the work space, and some of the waiting room. We also think that they added on the library during the remodel and potentially the bathroom at this time as well.

We know that the main staircase was purchased later by the Cooke's; the original staircase was the smaller and narrower back staircase. Today, if we stand at the top of the stairs and look down, we see a window that leads to the archives storage room. We believe that this window was used to let light onto the main landing of the second floor.

The kitchen is thought to have always been present in some capacity, with the remnants of an old fireplace built into the west wall. Beyond this is a breezeway once used as a place to house the "restroom" before the implementation of indoor plumbing and a bathroom.

# History of the House by Room

## Foyer:

This room had not only served as the grand entrance to the house but was their primary living room. The grandfather clock that sits near the museum store belonged to the Cookes and originally sat in that spot. The radio sat next to the clock underneath the window. The stairs and fireplace were purchased from a sears catalog. As a house rule, the family was not allowed to use the main staircase, like not wearing shoes on the carpet.

## Parlor:

This room served as a formal entertainment space. It once had a Victrola (A record player), Piano, Oriental Carved Cabinet, and horsehair chairs and a settee. The red drapes could be closed to keep the room warm.

## Library:

This remained a library until after Uriah passed until Ethel's health declined. This room became Ethel's bedroom and sewing/ quilting room. The room has pocket doors as well as access to the basement and bathroom. The library was one of the rooms added on in the early 1900s.

## Dining Room:

The table is not original to the Cookes however it is similar in style. The original table was large and rectangular. Very ornate, with 3 leaves. It was made of oak with hand carved legs.

## Doctors Office/Waiting Area:

The doctors' waiting room originally had black leather furniture. Leather chairs and a settee. His office did have a roll-top desk and chair. His examination room

had a metal examining table with a black leather top. Dr. Cooke more frequently did not have office hours but instead was on call anytime someone needed him.

#### Upstairs landing:

In the center was a circular table. On the right was a mahogany chest. On the left, a wash sink. The window was believed to be used to allow light into this part of the house prior to electric bulbs being added.

#### Directors Office:

This room at one point was the Kuhlman's room. (Elizabeth and Ale)

#### The Sylvania Room:

This was Uriah and Ethel's room.

#### Archives:

This was used for storage, plants, and hobbies.

#### Archives Office:

This was Marilyn's Room.

#### The Attic:

Dr. Cooke had an ornate pool table in here. When it was delivered it was brought through a window because of its size.

# History of the Cooke/Kuhlman Family

## Dr. Uriah Cooke:

Uriah Cooke was born on January 3rd 1870 near Metamora in Lucas County, Ohio. His father, Thomas, was native to Ireland and came to this country at the age of twenty-eight. His mother, Eleanor, also hailed from Ireland. Uriah had three siblings

Belle, George and Margaret.

Uriah attended the country schools and spent one year in high school in Sylvania. After high

school, he taught for five years in various schools. He then entered Valparaiso University in Indiana, where he graduated from the scientific department in 1893 at the age of 23. He then

went onto continue his medical studies at the University Toledo Medical College where he

graduated on April 14th 1897 at the age of 27. Within a week of graduating college, he moved

into the home at 5717 Main Street and opened his own medical office. That same year, on

September 22nd, Uriah Cooke married Ethel Kimbell.

Together, Uriah and Ethel had one child. Elizabeth Grace Cooke was born on January 29th,

1901. Uriah eventually remodeled the home in 1902, expanding the size of his doctor's office.

This was a three-year project, finishing in 1905. Uriah ran his practice in the home for 45

years until 1942 when he passed away. During his life, Uriah was very involved in the

community. He served on the Sylvania School board, he founded the Sylvania Savings Bank in 1900 and served as president for three years, he was the medical director for Sylvania for the poor for seven years, he was a member of the Protected Home Circle, he was a member of the Sylvania Masonic Lodge and Fort Meigs Chapter Royal Arch Masons, he was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Sylvania, and lastly, he had over time purchased homes throughout Sylvania and then rented them out. Over the course of his adulthood,

Uriah owned 9 different houses that he rented out, not including his own house. Uriah developed a sickness and a month later, passed away on August 19th, 1942 in St.

Vincents Hospital at the age of 72. He was buried in Association Cemetery near his parents.

## **Ethel M Cooke:**

Born Ethel M Kimbell on February 6th 1875 in Ohio. Her father Jasper C. Kimbell was also born in Sylvania and her mother, Mary E. Kimbell was born in Canada.

Ethel had three other siblings - Ellery, Orville and Charles. I

Not much is known about Ethel prior to her marriage to Uriah Cooke. They were married on September 22nd, 1897, shortly after moving into the house on 5717 Main Street. Ethel was 22. On January 29th, 1901, Uriah and Ethel had Elizabeth Grace Cooke, their only child. On September 22, 1921, they held a wedding for Elizabeth at the home and then welcomed their son-in-law into the house where he lived until his death. On June 2nd, 1936 Ethel became a grandmother when Elizabeth and Al Kuhlman had Marilyn Kuhlman. Three generations of the family then lived together in the home.

Ethel was also very involved in the community through her husband. She was also a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. After her husband's death in 1942, Ethel took over the property management of eight of the homes that Uriah owned. She sold three of the houses within five years of his death.

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, 1951, Ethel died of a stroke, in her bedroom of the home at 5717. She was 76 years old. She was surrounded by her family. Her grand-daughter, Marilyn said that her grandmother "died in her arms".

## **Elizabeth Kuhlman:**

Born Elizabeth Grace Cooke on January 29th, 1901 in Sylvania.

Throughout her life, she often went by the nickname, Betty. She attended Sylvania Schools and graduated on May 23rd, 1919. When she was 20 years old, on September 22nd, 1921, Betty married Alfred B Kuhlman in the home at

5717 Main Street. The two of them both lived in the home along with Dr. Uriah and Ethel Cooke.

On June 2nd, 1936, Elizabeth and Al had one child named Marilyn Elizabeth Kuhlman. This was their only child. Marilyn also lived in the home with the family. When her mother and father died, Elizabeth was willed the remaining five properties that were owned by the family. Elizabeth Kuhlman had resided in the house of 5717 Main Street her entire life and the only time she did not live in the house was the last three weeks of her life when she went to live at Lake Park Nursing Home on Harroun Road in Sylvania. She passed away on April 22nd, 1989 at the age of 88.

### **Alfred Kuhlman:**

Born Alfred B Kuhlman on November 15th, 1889 in Toledo, OH. He often went by the shortened version of his name, "Al". He had four brothers - Walter, Norman,

Oswald and Clarence along with one sister who died in infancy.

He was one of the founders of the Kuhlman Engineering Company, establishing the

engineering firm with other family members in 1916 on Champlain Street. Al was a vice president and electrical circuit panel designer for more than 4. Years, retiring from active

engineering work in 1960 at the age of 70. He served as president and chairman of the board until 1962 and remained active in its management until 1975. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Sylvania club. On April 27th, 1975, Al had a heart attack while home in the house. He was rushed to Toledo Hospital where he passed away.

### **Marilyn Enz:**

Born Marilyn Elizabeth Kuhlman on June 2nd, 1936 in Sylvania. Marilyn was the only child of Al and Betty Kuhlman and lived with her parents and grandparents at 5717 Main Street. She attended Burnham High School and graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL in 1958 at the age of 22.

On February 15th, 1958. Marilyn married Lee Enz of Denmark, WI. They were married at the First Congregational Church in Sylvania. They met while in college and after the wedding, they moved into a home in suburban Chicago. In 1962, Marilyn gave birth to her first daughter, Lauren. Then in 1965, she had a second daughter named Carolyn. Marilyn still lives outside of Chicago in IL while her daughters live in TX and CT. Growing up, Lauren and Carolyn would come to the home at 5717 Main St, with their parents, to visit their grandparents. While Lauren and Carolyn were never residents, they were the fourth generation to get to spend time in the home.

# Timeline of the Cooke/Kuhlman Family

1897

- Uriah Cooke graduated from Toledo Medical College on April 14th, in Toledo, OH. He had attended Valparaiso University in Indiana for his undergraduate degree and graduated in 1893.
- Dr. Uriah Cooke marries Ethel Kimbell on September 22nd in Whiteford, MI. Uriah was 27 and Ethel was 22 years old.
- Dr. Uriah and Ethel Cooke purchase 5717 Main Street in Sylvania, OH. Dr. Cooke turns a front room into his doctor's office and begins seeing patients throughout Sylvania.

1901

- Elizabeth "Betty" Cooke is born to Dr. Uriah and Ethel Cooke on January 29th.

1902

- The Cooke's remodel the house to include an addition on the north side. This included a larger space for the Doctor's office as well as the addition of the library and two more second floor bedrooms. This was a 3-year project.

1921

- Elizabeth "Betty" Cooke marries Alfred "Al" Kuhlman on September 22nd, in Sylvania, OH. Betty was 20 and Al was 31 years old. They live in Betty's childhood home here, along with Dr. Uriah and Ethel Cooke.

1936

- Marilyn Kuhlman is born on June 2nd to Al and Betty Kuhlman. She lived with her parents and grandparents in this house.

1942

- Dr. Uriah Cooke passes away on August 8th at the age of 72. He had been sick for several months and passed away at St. Vincent's Hospital.

## 1951

- Ethel Cooke passes away on September 4th at the age of 76. She died of a stroke, in the arms of her grand-daughter, Marilyn. She passed away at home.

## 1958

- Marilyn Kuhlman marries Lee Enz on February 15th in Sylvania, OH. Marilyn was 21 years old. Together, they make their home just outside of Chicago in Evanston, IL.

## 1962

- Lauren and Carolyn Enz are born to Marilyn and Lee Enz and continue to live outside of Chicago, IL. The family would travel to Sylvania and spend the holidays in this home with their parents/ grandparents.

## 1975

- Alfred "Al" Kuhlman passes away on April 27th at the age of 85. He had a heart attack and eventually passed away at Toledo Hospital.

## 1989

- Elizabeth "Betty" Kuhlman passes away on April 22nd at the age of 88. She passed away at Lake Park Hospital in Sylvania, OH from what was described as "old age".

## 1993

- The Cooke/ Kuhlman house is sold to the City of Sylvania to preserve its Incredible history.