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John B. Nienaber was born in February of 1814 in Germany. When he was twenty-two years of age he immigrated to the United States where he later married Mary Heying, another German native, in 1843. Together they had three children.

In 1864 the Nienaber family moved to Covington where John established himself in business. A tailor by trade, John opened his own tailoring and trimming shop and operated it successfully for many years. Eventually, however, John became involved in the buying and selling of real estate and soon became very wealthy. One of the most prominent and successful Germans ever to live in Covington, John Nienaber died on May 31, 1884.

The Nienaber house, graced with excellent woodwork, was built in Regency townhouse style by Howell Lovell. Construction was begun on the house in 1855 but was not completed until after the Civil War. In 1900 the house, located at 327 Riverside Drive, was purchased and remodeled by Judge Graziani for his daughters, Mrs. Pendery and Mrs. Solar. The Pendery and Solar families then resided there until 1935.