



Silver Hills  
Historical Society

THE CLARION

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Silver Hills



Families gathered along the streets of Silver Hills near their homes for a grand Easter Parade Saturday, April 11. This might have been the first Easter Parade on Silver Hills, for there is no historical account of a public parade on the hill celebrating



candidates. Ike never married. He lived on Silver Hills with his sister, Martha Leyden and his sister-in-law, Emily Leyden. Ike passed away in 1910.

The Easter Parade event was organized by Morgan Sprigler and Grace Leigh. Cars were adorned



Easter. However, at the turn of the century, Isaac P. Leyden (uncle Ike) organized a parade of all the children on the Hill led by a drum and fife corps from New Albany. The conveyances ranged from pony and goat carts to bicycles and wagons all gaily decorated. Ike was an ardent Democrat. He was elected representative in the State Legislature from Floyd County to the fifty-seventh General Assembly held in 1891, and elected Senator from the New Albany district in the following session.



The parade had a political theme. The children were not identified with a particular political party but the vehicles all carried banners for Democratic

with varying Easter decorations. Parade participants assembled in the Scribner Middle School parking lot for the trek up the hill. The parade of cars made their way around Sunset, down Camp Ave, to Knob, through Water Works Place, and over to Highland Ave, where it ended at Greystone Gables. Families observed social distancing by sitting roadside in their yards. The parade participants were confined to their cars. Those who volunteered for the historic event are listed in the order in which they drove.



Car #1 – Morgan Sprigler & Grace Leigh. car #2 – Carol Wilkerson & Brent Sprigler (the bunny car), car #3 – Kelly Carnighan, car #4 –

Paul Kiger, car #5 – Meegan & Kyle Miller with Beau, Avery, & Quinn (pictured), car #6 – Tom and Carla Wolfe, car #7 – Ann Offut & Family, car #8 – Ken & Helen Brown, car #9 – Marty, Fletcher & Oliver Gohmann, #10 go cart-Gus Bergman, car #11 – Matt, Jessica and baby Theo Bergman. Jessica is pictured sitting in the wicker chair. Car #12 – the Schremser family, car #13 – Greer Brown, and car

#14 – Chad, Genvieve, and Evelyn Springler.

A prize was awarded to the family or individual for the best decorated vehicle, and the winner was, Anne Offut and family. They transformed their truck into an Easter basket.

*Ric Manning posted a video of the parade on YouTube.com. Search 'Silver Hills Easter Parade' to find it.*

## Isaac Leyden

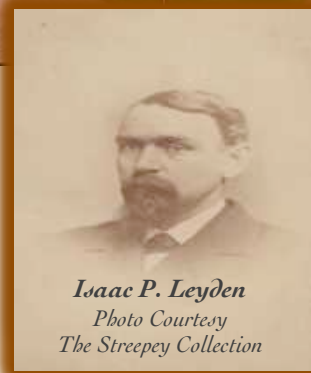
was the son of Patrick and Mary Leyden of New Albany. Patrick came to New Albany sometime around 1815. He married Mary Edwards in 1818. Patrick owned a farm located on the old New Albany and Paoli turnpike, where he and Mary raised seven children. Born in 1844, Isaac was the sixth child of seven. Isaac and his older brother, John were prominent figures in politics and business affairs in Floyd County. Isaac was well known in banking and served as Senator in the Indiana Legislature for a number of terms. His older sister, Frances (Fanny) Leyden, married Washington Charles DePauw in 1867. DePauw, a prominent businessman in New Albany He was widely known for organizing the American Plate Glass Works. DePauw died in 1887 a beloved philanthropist, leaving others to carry on his work. Isaac's sister, Fanny DePauw, provided the major donation for the construction of Florence Hall at DePauw



*DePauw House*



*Leyden House*



*Isaac P. Leyden  
Photo Courtesy  
The Streepey Collection*

University in Greencastle, Indiana.

In 1891, James V. Kelso subdivided his property and established plat 395 in the newly developed community of Silver Hills. In 1892 Fanny DePauw purchased lots 5 & 6, where she built a three-story house. At the same time her sister-in-law, Emily Leyden, purchased lots 3 & 4 next to Fanny, where she built a lovely three-story house. The two houses can still be seen on Highland Ave at Dent Ave.

Emily married Aaron Leyden, Isaac's brother. Aaron died in

1871 leaving Emily to care for their two young children, Nellie and Frank. Nellie married Frank M. Stoy, and together they had three children. Frank died in 1897. Nellie and her children

moved in with her mother. Emily's brother-in-law, Isaac, and his sister, Martha Leyden, both single, came to live with Emily as well.

Nellie's son, Raymond Stoy married Helen Pierce of Silver Hills. They had a daughter, Helen, who married Robert Streepey. Isaac died in 1910 and Emily passed away in 1912. For the first 20 years the house was home to the Leyden family. After 1912 it became widely known as the Stoy house. Nellie Stoy died in 1947, and thereafter, it became the home of the Streepey family.

Isaac Leyden was often referred to as Uncle Ike. He was a popular resident of Silver Hills, especially with the children. He organized and hosted annual children's outings, including the parade of children led by fife and drum on gaily decorated means of conveyances.

## Tribute To Mary Mimms, Ed Summers & Loretta

### *Mary Elizabeth (Edwards) Garvin*

*Mimms*, born May 20, 1932, was the last surviving descendant of Dawson's Hollow on Silver Hills. She passed away January 11, 2020 at the age of 87. Mary lived in the Hollow as a child with her parents, Rosie and Thomas Edwards. Mary was the youngest of four children, Reta, Catherine and Homer. In 1904, Mary's grandfather, William Frank Dawson purchased several acres of land in the woods below Adams Street on Silver Hills. William served with the Union late in the Civil War when the Union began enlisting blacks. He was placed under the command of General Grant, and participated in the battles of Petersburg, VA. and Nashville, TN. Over the years descendants of William Dawson lived in what became known as Dawson's Hollow. The most remembered of the Dawson clan was Thomas Edwards, affectionally called Uncle Tom. Tom had a team of horses and a wagon to get around the hill doing odd jobs for the neighbors. Alpha Pouch of Silver Hills wrote a poem immortalizing the life of Uncle Tom on the Hill. The last of the family moved out of the Hollow in the early 1960s. Mary was our honored guest at the Silver Hills Historical fall event in 2015` when the Silver Hills Historical Society paid tribute to the history of Dawson's Hollow.



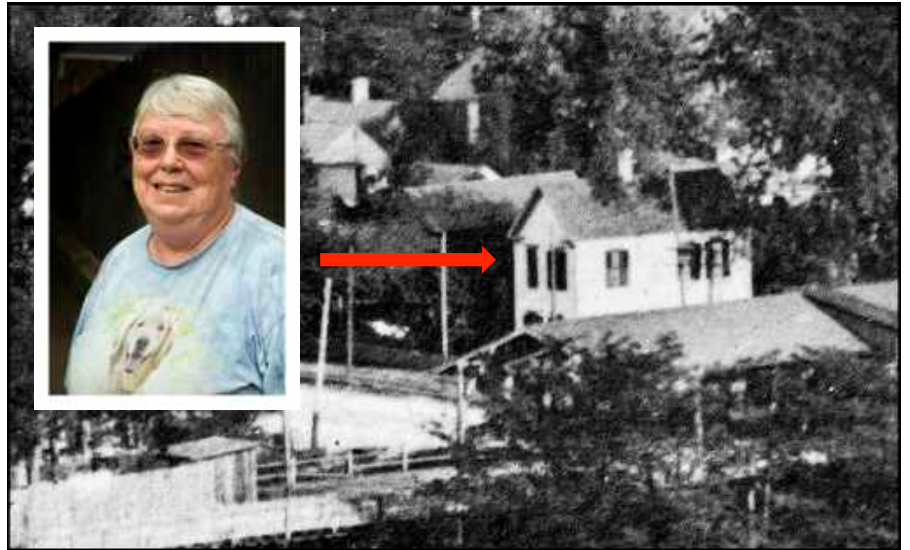
*Loretta Irene (Riddell) Witt*, 87, of Silver Hills passed away March 28, 2020. Loretta and her husband Claude first met at the Silver Heights camp meetings. Loretta attended the meetings with her mother, Viola Riddell. Over the years, Viola fell in love with Silver Hills, and around 1952 she built a two-story brick house on Alice Avenue. Loretta and Claude moved in with Viola in anticipation of building their own house on the Hill. Not long after, with the help of her mother, Loretta found herself raised her two children, Steven and Linda. Loretta remained in the house after her mother passed away. The house will always be remembered as the Witt house and the love Loretta had for Silver Hills.

*Ed Summers*, born December 30, 1926, passed away March 18, 2020 at the age of 93. Ed moved his wife Virginia (Dee Dee) and their two children, Steve and Clay to Crestview, Silver Hills, in 1965. Ed was a veteran of WWII having served in the US Navy Pacific Theater on the USS McDermut, a Fletcher-class destroyer. Ed was awarded three battle stars for meritorious participation in battle. Ed went on to serve in the Navy during the Korean War on the USS Pictor AF54, a store ship that made tours of the Far East to supply perishable food and dry stores in Korea and Taiwan. Ed worked as a teacher at New Albany High School, where he taught math and physics. He furthered his career as an engineer and eventually retired from the Ford Motor Company.



*The Silver Hills Nature Trail* has seen an increase in hikers seeking an escape from their confinement as a result of the COVID-19 virus. The trail is a great place where families, couples, and individuals can practice safe, social distancing in a beautiful setting rich in history. For many it's a first-time experience, promoted by word of mouth. For others, it has become a weekly routine. Online reviews give the Silver Hills Historical Nature Trail a rating of four stars or a 4.7 out of 5.

The trail has become a personal treasure for *Mary Bennett*. Mary and her sister live in the house at the corner of West Spring and West Eighth streets. The house was built in the 1880s. It can be seen in the picture of the Highland Railway depot taken in the early 1890s, not long after the opening of the Highland Railway trolley car line to Silver Hills. Mary walks her dogs on the trail almost daily. She puts out cut apples, bird seed, peanuts, and peanut butter for the deer and



wildlife. Most importantly, Mary keeps an eye on the trail looking for fallen trees and large branches. She contacts us immediately when she sees something needing attention. Mary is a huge asset to the sustainability of the trail. We can't thank her enough for her invaluable contribution.



## Silver Hills Food Trucks

Anne and Ronald Offut on Sunset Drive set yet another historical precedent when in April they arranged for a food truck by *Fistfull of Tacos* to set up on Sunset Drive for the community of Silver Hills. The food truck was such a huge success the Offuts made arrangements for *Bert's Quality Provisions*, a full-service 28-foot mobile food concession kitchen and barbecue smoker operation offering daily fare, family meals-to-go and event and catering capabilities, to set up again on Sunset Drive Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Both food truck events were a big hit with the residents on Silver Hills.

For the full story about Dawn's Hollow, visit the Silver Hills website at [SilverHillsHistoricalSociety.org](http://SilverHillsHistoricalSociety.org). Click on [Newsletter](#) and go to Issue no. 6, December 2015.

We will be monitoring the COVID-19 virus going forward. The scheduling of Society events will be contingent on when it becomes safe again for large groups to begin gathering. For now, the Society historical events are on hold.

If those who wish to tour the Home of The Silver Hills Historical Collection, please contact Kelly Carnighan @ 502-494-0840 to schedule an appointment.