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There is a Christmas card with a deer on the front with the message,  
“OH DEER IT WAS A YEAR”  
This about sums up 2020

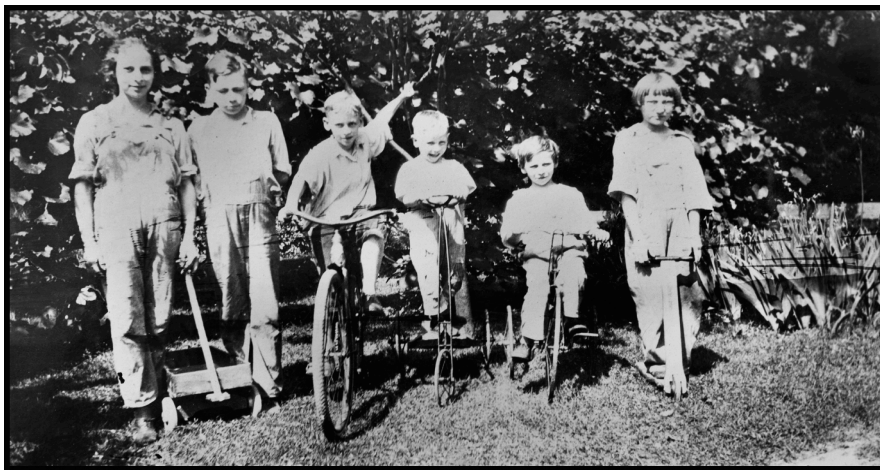
*For The Hayes Family of  
Brookville, Indiana, It Was A  
Year of A Remarkable  
Discovery and Family Reunion*

For one particular family, the Silver Hills Historical Society was instrumental in a remarkable reunion. Fred and Emma Gohmann moved to Silver Hills in 1913, when they bought the Robert Courtney house on Riddle Road and named it Hawthorne Place. There they raised a family of seven children. Elizabeth, born in 1907, was Fred

and work at the same time. Under the circumstances, Elizabeth made a very difficult decision; one she felt was in the child’s best interest. She put the baby up for adoption.

Seventy-eight years later, with the help of her daughter, Bridget, Barbara Fritz Hayes learned Elizabeth Gohmann of Silver Hills was her birth mother. Bridget contacted the Silver Hills Historical Society wanting to learn as much as she could about the Gohmann family and where their house was located, and if it was still standing. Bridget was immediately put in touch with Victoria Gohmann Dodge, the family genealogist. From that very moment, Barbara was reunited with her maternal family. Barbara said her adoptive parents were loving and supportive, that her life growing up was nothing short of what any child could ever expect.

Effective July 1, 2018, a law in Indiana was passed allowing those eligible to access their adoption records. This paved the way for Bridget and her mother to gain access to Barbara’s adoption records. In the years leading up to 2018, Barbara was busy raising a family of five children. Her daughter, Bridget, bridged the gap and reunited her mother with the Gohmann family. Barbara has been in contact with the family via Zoom, and anxiously anticipates meeting everyone once the threat of COVID diminishes. For now, Barbara is overjoyed to learn of her family here on Silver Hills.



Gohmann Family 1922 – From left to right: Elizabeth, Henry, Conrad, Joe, David, & Martha

and Emma’s first child. Eva Gohmann Stein of the Silver Hills Stein family was the youngest. Elizabeth was six when her parents moved to Silver Hills.

At the age of 34 Elizabeth found herself in a delicate situation with child and no husband. She discretely shielded her family from learning of her pregnancy, except for a brother, Father Conrad Gohmann, a Catholic priest. Elizabeth reached out to Father Gohmann for guidance. He kindly suggested she contact the St. Elizabeth Home in Indianapolis. The baby was born on January 9, 1942. For about 13 months, with the help of St. Elizabeth, Elizabeth made every effort to find means to support herself and her newborn child. But times were tough with the war raging in Europe and in the Pacific. Elizabeth was struggling to find care for her daughter

## *Alpha Club 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

The Alpha Club of Silver Hills celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. Unfortunately, a formal celebration was postponed due to COVID-19. The Alpha Club made history when in the fall of 1895 Alice Greene of Silver Hill organized a women’s literary club. The name Alpha was chosen because it was the first of its kind to be organized on the Hill. On February 22, 1896, a few months after the club was established, the New Albany Tribune published an article titled, *The Alpha; A Flourishing Silver Hills Club*. The story described the club in 1896, and still defines the Club today.



*Photograph of The Alpha Club 1996*

*“The Silver Hills Literary Club has made but brief history. It was organized in the autumn by our enterprising President, Miss Alice Green. Mrs. Pritchett as Vice President and Mrs. Frank Gwin as Secretary and Treasurer are our other efficient officers. The name is Alpha, its members consisting of the ladies of the Hill, most of whom attend. The meetings occur fortnightly and the*

*programs are quite varied. We have not gone deeply into things, but are browsing in different fields. It will be miscellaneous work, through this year, topics principally current literature and events. The disturbed political horizon has interested us, and we know we are far wiser in studying the outlook together with the varied Monroe doctrine and though we have not been called upon, would settle the affairs of the nation’s most amicably and eliminate war and bloodshed. Another important element in our Club is its social side, which makes us more interested in one another and draws us close together. We have studied the life and writings of Eugene Field, Mr. Smith, the author of “America”, Oliver Wendell Holmes and Whittier, have had bright short stories, one original one, and always good music as we are so fortunate as to have the leader of the Treble Clef among us, and undoubtedly much other untried talent in this and other lines. We are working modestly under simple rules and very much to our own pleasure and profit.”*

*Story by Anne Lewis  
A Member of The Alpha Club 1896*

## *Nature Trail Temporarily Closed*

The Silver Hills Historical Nature Trail was temporarily closed last fall when the American Water Company began work to replace the main water line from the water tank to Spring Street. A wide path was cut through the woods from the top of the hill clearing the way to replace a 133-year old pipe. The trail was cut in two at the end of the Market Street Hill Road Trail. It will be restored back to its original condition, and the trail will again be reconnected. No other part of the trail was disturbed. A section of pipe dated 1887 was recovered. It will be donated for display on the trail.



*Bob Caesar  
Ric Manning*

*Cut through the Market Street Hill Road Trail at the stone column viewing area looking east towards West Spring and 8th Street.*

## *In Loving Memory*

*Jeannene Manning*

*Margaret Carnes*

*Irvin Sonne*

*Jane Breece*

*Diane Culwell*

**Irvin H. Sonne III** passed away June 1, 2020 at the age of 65. Irvin lived in his family home purchased by his parents in 1967. The house was built by Elizabeth Bulleit sometime in the late 1940s to early 1950s. Irvin and his wife, Diane moved into the home to care for his father, who survives his son. Elizabeth and Walter Bulleit moved to Silver Hills in 1915 when they bought the John Owen Greene home and 23 acres that made up the Greeneland Fruit Farm. In 1932 the Bulleits divided the farm into individual lots and established Sunset Drive, which winds around and throughout what was once the John O. Greene farm. Walter died in 1936. Elizabeth sold the farm in 1941 to Sherman Minton and his wife, Gertrude. Elizabeth remained on the hill, and for several years rented. She then built a new home back in the woods below Sunset Drive, where she lived out the rest of her life. This is the Sonne home today. Irvin and his wife have been members of the Silver Hills Historical Society since it was first established in 2012.

**Margaret Ann (Schlensker) Crone Carnes** passed away on August 29, 2020. Margaret was 85. Margaret and her first husband, Herb Crone, moved to Silver Hills in 1970 when they bought the two-story house on Highland Avenue directly across from Dent Avenue. The house was originally built around 1908 by George Westerkamp and his wife, Hattie. George was the auditor for the New Albany Iron Works, a large iron mill located in New Albany along the Ohio River, on what would today be on the south side of the floodwall. Herb Crone died suddenly at a very young age leaving Margaret to raise four children. The Crone children lived a kid's life on Silver Hills, participating in the sport of volleyball and other activities. Margaret was a long time member of the Silver Hills Alpha Club. She worked with the Kraft family at the Kraft Funeral Home on Spring Street, where she brought love and kindness to those in need of comfort and support. She was mom to us all.

**Jeannene Seeger Manning** passed away October 29, 2020. Jeannene was 74. Jeannene and Ric moved to Silver Hills in 1974 when they bought a small house at the west end of Adams Street below Camp Avenue. The driveway was originally the road to Dawson Hollow, named for an African American family that owned the property in the woods below and behind the Manning house. The Dawsons were gone long before Ric and Jeannene moved to the Hill. Ric and Jeannene immediately fell in love with the Hill. In 1985 they bought the Kraft house on Ridgeway, where they lived until 2019 when they moved into a new house they built on Highland Ave. Ric has been a volunteer in developing the Silver Hills Nature Trail and the Secretary for the Silver Hills Historical Society. Behind Ric was his strongest supporter and love of his life, Jeannene. We all will miss her.

**Roberta Jane Tewalt Breece** (Jane) passed away November 9, 2020 at the age of 93. A native of Newark, New Jersey, Jane came to New Albany with her husband, James E. Breece, Jr., not long after they were married. Jim joined the family business in New Albany producing and selling plywood veneer for the Breece Veneer and Panel Company. In 1954, Jane and Jim purchased a lot at the top of Cherry Street Hill Road from Bob Bulleit, where they built a modest three-bedroom house. The lot was part of the Bulleit Sunset plat established in 1932, formerly John O. Greene's Greeneland Fruit Farm. Walter and Elizabeth Bulleit bought the Greene farm in 1915. Jane and Jim raised a family of two boys, James E. Breece III, and Anthony Tewalt Breece (Tony). Silver Hills was the Breece's home for 57 years. Jane was a remarkable woman; elegant and sophisticated yet simple and kind. She will always be remembered by those of us who grew up coming and going at the Breece house.

**Diane Susan Culwell** passed away on December 23, 2020 at the age of 73. Diane was a descendent of the Receveur family of Silver Hills. In 1924, William and Mary Receveur bought the William Hardy house built in 1905. The house sits at the top of Cherry Street Hill Road. Diane's mother, Rosemary Jones, was their daughter. William and Mary in turn sold property in part to their son, Robert (Bob) and daughter, Virginia, where each built a house.

# 2020 Membership List

## Mary C. Tuley (\$500 - \$2,000)

Caesar, Robert  
Carnighan, Kelly & Barbara  
Means, Mary (Terstegge)  
Stein, Nicholas F.  
Wilson, Michael & Elizabeth

## G. W. Morrison (\$200 - \$499)

Brown, Ken & Helen  
Cody, John T. & Peggy  
Gohmann, Steve & Myra McCrickard  
Knable, Al & Jessica  
Stinson, Daniel  
Westbrook, Greg & Linda (Tuley)  
Wolf, Tom & Carla

## Resident (\$100 - \$199)

Bedan, Rick & Fran  
Breece, James E. III & Susan  
Breece, Jane  
Bundy, Molly  
Clear, Peter & Karen (Sanders)  
Jagger, Eric & Terra  
Lipps, Bobby & Susan  
Manning, Ric & Jeannene  
Mullineaux, Dick & Carrie  
Pruitt, Betty.  
Schremser, Chris & Tara  
Sisk, John & Elsa Haddad  
Smith, Don & Sid Spear  
Sonne, Irvin & Diane  
Sprecher, Jeremy & Kirsten  
Stein, Nancy  
Stumler, Irv & Pat  
Summers, Clay & Diane  
Thornton, Mary Anne  
Wolford, Carl & Mary Kay

## Honory Members

Childress, Tom & Linda  
Daugherty, Dorothy  
Riely, Frank  
Smith, Don & Kathy  
Stein, John E. Jr.

## General Membership

Adams, Allen  
Alpha Club  
Anderson, Jim  
Anshutz, Steve  
Applegate, Janet  
Argo, Matt & Lynsey  
Banet, Anne  
Baker, Dan & Pam

Barksdale, David & Debbie  
Bergman, Matt & Jessica  
Blunk, Richard & Lorene  
Bodner, Louie & Winnie  
Bowling, Beth  
Britton, Thomas, Eileen, & Jerry  
Bundy, Mary Lynn  
Campbell, Bruce & Deanna  
Cannon, Barbara  
Carnes, Margaret  
Clemons, Mary Helen  
Clere, Edward & Amy  
Conlee, Peggy  
Craig, Ron & Jan  
Culwell, Diane S.  
Denny, Joyce R.  
Detenber, Steve & Cathy  
Dodge, Victoria  
Ellis, Raymond Charles II  
Ellis, Wiley William  
Elsby, Robert & Ruth Ann  
Endris, Nathan  
Epler, Kent & Rick Milburn  
Eplion, David & Cherie  
Everbach, George & Nancy  
Farrell, Stan  
Finn, Jerry & Jill  
Freiberger, Janice  
Folck, Douglas  
Gadjen, Pamela Baumann  
Grace, Jack & Diana  
Gilstrap, Tim  
Gish, Rachel  
Gray, Barbara (Baker)  
Gregorinci, Nancy (Ellis)  
Grube, Nelson  
Guarnaschelli, Dominic & Monica  
Hall, Mary M.  
Hamilton, Bob & Michelle  
Hansford, Carol Sue  
Hansford, Leslie Anne  
Hardy, Gayle  
Harris, David & Ethel  
Hawkins, Lynn A.  
Haywood, Rod & Linda Stein  
Hess, Charlotte  
Hobble, Joe  
Hocker, Carol  
Holland, Christine (Kelso)  
Holwerk, David & Colleen  
Hottois, Michael & Georgette Kleier  
Huffaker, Alice (Sloan)  
Irvine, Robert & Rebecca  
Jakoby, Gary & Kristina  
Janes, Julie M.  
Jenks, Richard & Ann  
Johnson, Gregory & Susan

Kaelin, Suzanne  
Kelso, Emilie  
Kelso, Robert  
Kraft, Ben & Katie  
Kraft, Kurt & Dottie  
Kulaga, James  
Lewis, Gerry & Barb  
Limeberry, David & Barbara  
Lindgren, Britt Marie  
Lopp, John & Debra  
Maetschke, Bill & Sharon  
Manning, Evan & Corrie  
Mason, Kay  
McClure, Jimmy  
McDonald, Ernie & Linda  
Merida, Melissa  
Meyer, Jason, Andrea, & Family  
Miller, Kyle & Meegan  
Miller, Lawrence & Cynthia  
Minnich, Alex  
Minnich, Deborah A.  
Murphy, Diane M.  
Munroe, Richard & Susan  
Naville, Stephen  
Nobel, Amanda  
O'Daniel, Deanna  
Offutt, Ronald & Anne (Garner)  
Parker, Eloise Kelley  
Patterson, Mitchell, Glenn & Becky  
Peters, Kurt & Pam &  
Pinney, Nathan & Maggie Galloway  
Price, Tim & Christina  
Proctor, Bryan & Tiffany  
Quinkert, Andrew  
Rahe, Steven  
Randolph, Kirk & Meghan  
Richards, Greg & Cindy  
Rider, Barbara  
Robinson, William & Donna  
Roos, James & Tammy  
Ruckman, David  
Samsel, Dennis & Andra  
Schamel, Steve & Julie  
Schlagenhauf, Larry  
Schroeder, Marcia  
Schultz, Mike & Jenifer  
Seabrook, Mark & Ellen  
Senn, Bob & Rita  
Scott-Downs, Susan Jane  
Shope, Gregg Kiser  
Sidebottom, Janice & Jamie  
Stark, Mary R.  
Stein, Emma  
Stein, Jim & Gail  
Stein, Louis & Paula  
Stein, Pete & Martha  
Stern, Walt

Stewart, Scott & Christi  
Streepey, Robert & Helen  
Summers, Edward  
Sutter, Chris & Katie  
Tate, Michael & Patricia  
Tegart, Joseph  
Trinkle, Bob & Lore  
Tuley, Naydeen  
Tyler, Scott & Alison  
Walker, Jim & Susan  
Wall, Bob  
Wells, Bill & Joan  
Whelan, Carol Gohmann  
Whitus, Laura Whelan  
Wilcox, John & Lynda  
Wilkins, Nancy Rogers  
Williams, Paul & Carolyn  
Wilson, Bruce & Linda  
Witt, Loretta  
Witt, Linda K.  
Wolfe, Dietz & Alice (Erni)

## Officers

Director – Kelly Carnighan  
Co-Director – Robert Caesar  
Secretary – Ric Manning  
Treasurer – Rachel Gish

## Board Members

Kelly Carnighan  
Robert Caesar  
Paula Stein  
Pat Stumler  
James Walker

The Silver Hills Historical Society was established in October 2012. The Society celebrated its eighth year in 2020. On behalf of the Officers and Board, we would like to thank the membership for their support of our mission to recover, preserve, and illustrate the history unique to the community of Silver Hills. Thank you.

## *U.S. Declared War On Japan and Germany On December 11, 1941*

On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. Quoting the President of the United State, Franklin Roosevelt, "A Date Which Will Live Infamy". The USS Arizona was destroyed minutes after the attack began taking 1,700 sailor to their grave. Today, there are only two survivors remaining of the original xxxx crewmembers. A few years before the Pearl Harbor attack, the United States selected Charlestown, Indiana for the location of an ammunition plant capable of making smokeless black powder. Some 11,000 acres of farmland along the Ohio River was purchased for its proximity to the river where the largest powder producing plant in the world was built and put into production. The Indiana Munition Plant operated at capacity through four major military conflicts, WWII, Koren War, The War in Vietnam and the Gulf War. The plant ceased operations in 1992.

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*By Annie E. Lewis, Alpha Club Member 1896*

*Photograph of the Alpha Club 1996*