

Silver Hills

First Residents



*George W. Morrison & His Daugher,
Mary A. Morrison, Caney Knob
Date Unknown*

(Picture 1)

*Photo Courtesy
New Albany-Floyd County Public Library*

George H. Ashton

c. 1823

George H. Ashton purchased land on the Knob from Joel Scribner “by Sheriff Adm” on October 22, 1823. He bought 23 acres in the northwest corner of the Knob in the location of what is presently Sunset Drive. Mr. Ashton is listed in the City Directory as a steamboat pilot. There is no way to determine when he first built on the Knob but his residence is listed in the City Directory on “Cana Knob in 1856”. John O. Greene purchased Mr. Ashton’s home and property in 1860. Mr. Greene, a lawyer, built “A Fine House” which was completed by 1879. Walter and Elizabeth Bulliett bought the Greene property in 1915. They rebuilt the house building around the original Greene home. Parts of the Greene house are still visible today.

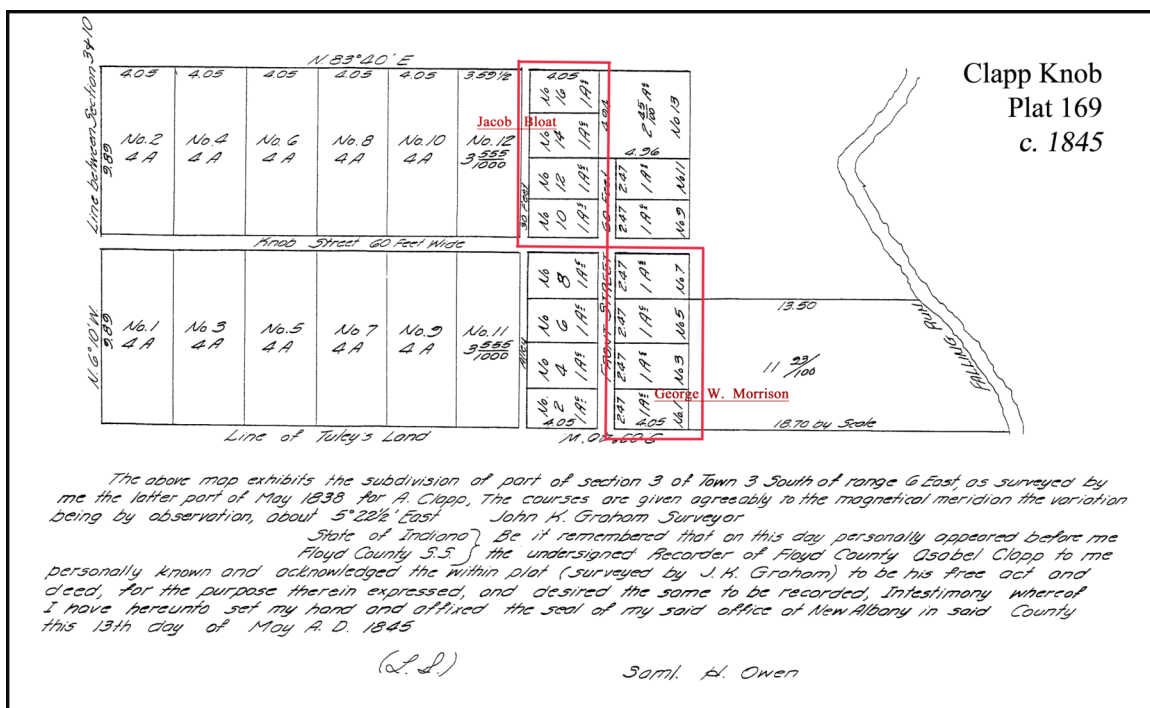
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George W. Morrison

c. 1851

George W. Morrison, pictured with his daughter, Mary (see picture 1), purchased land on the Knob from Asahel Clapp and wife on May 1, 1851. He bought lots 1, 3, 5, & 7 in Clapp Knob Plat 4 acres. He purchased one-third acres adjacent to plat 7 in 1862 from Asahel Clapp & wife and additional property from Clapp heirs in 1866 (see figure 2).



(Figure 2)

Mr. Morrison's residence is listed on "Canna Knob" in the 1856 City Directory. The Morrison's had four children: Frank L., Mary A., Charles O., and George M. Morrison. Mr. Morrison was a state renowned portrait and landscape artist. His gallery was located on High Street (Main Street) and Bank Street in New Albany. ***"Mr. G. W. Morrison lives here in quiet seclusion with an interesting family gathered about him, spending his winters in New Orleans and his summers at his romantic home. Frank, about eighteen, and Mary not yet sixteen are his two artist-children, both possessing rare gifts."*** (The Daily Commercial, Tuesday, October 29, 1867)

Many of his works survive today and can be seen in the Indiana State Capital, Culbertson Mansion, Scribner House and the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library. One painting in particular, a landscape scene, was painted on the Knob. It is a beautiful oil painting of the city of New Albany. The painting is on permanent display at the New

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Albany-Floyd County Public Library. Many more of his works are held in private collections. Barbara Cannon and Emilie Kelso, both residents of Silver Hills, each own a Morrison painting. Mr. Morrison died December 20, 1893. In 1899 a ***“one story brick and frame dwelling on Silver Hills, known as the George Morrison Property, was destroyed by fire. The building was owned by George Morrison, Jr. and was occupied by a man named Stevenson.”*** There were several buildings on his property one of which was Mr. Morrison’s studio. I doubt the one story brick house was the Morrison home, which leads me to believe the Endris’, who bought the property from the Morrison heirs January 27, 1902 removed the Morrison house to build their own (see picture 2).



*G. W. Morrison Home Silver Hills
c. 1893*

(Picture 2)

Art Work New Albany Illustrated

Jacob Bloat

c. 1851

Jacob Bloat bought Clapp Knob Plat lots 10, 12, 14 & 16 Front Street in 1851 (see picture 2). Mr. Bloat is listed in the City Directory occupation, wood sawyer. His residence is listed on “Cany Knob” in 1856. Jacob was the John Walton of the Knob. He was born in Germany in 1803. Jacob purchased the land for \$600. He sold it to Charles W. Betterton for \$3,000 February 24, 1864.

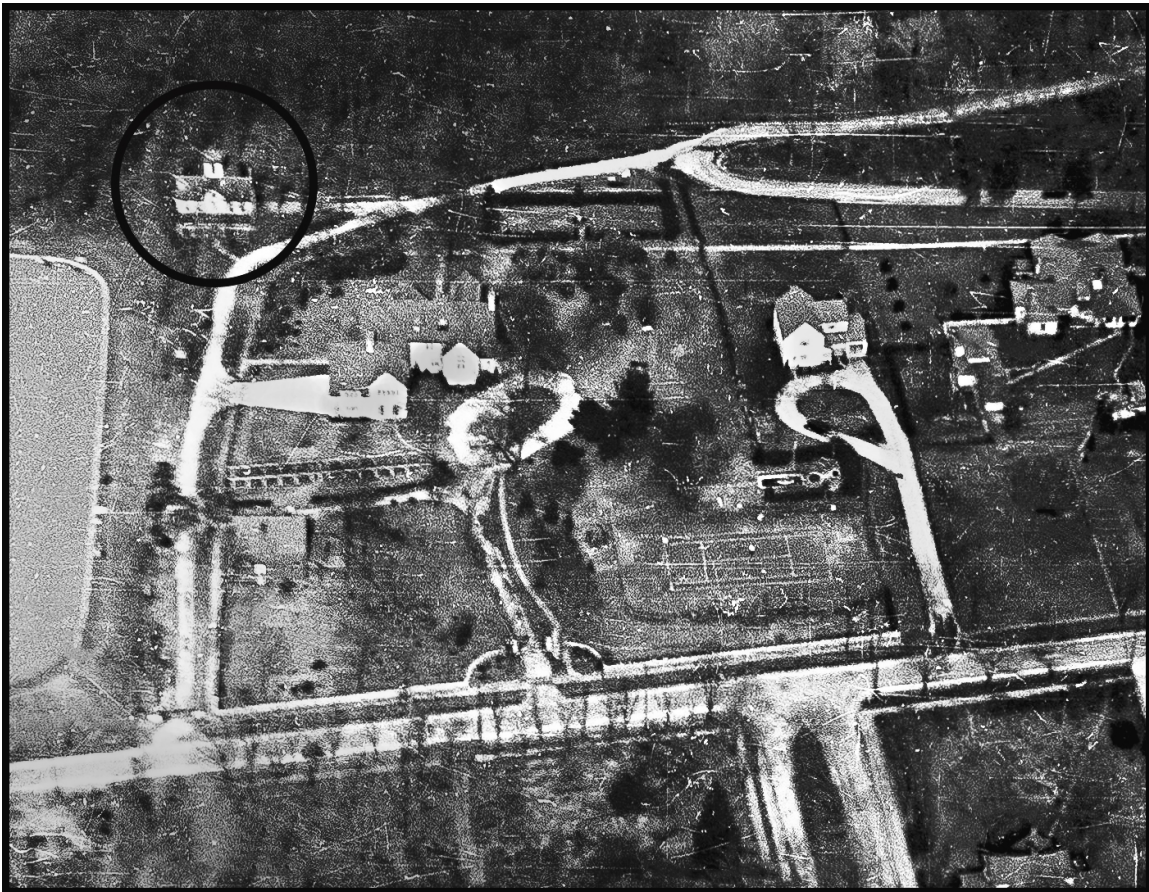
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Squire George W. Tuley

c. 1856

Squire George W. Tuley was the first of the Tuley family to remove to Caney Knob. He built a small house near the northeast boundary of his mother's property, Mary Crane Woodruff Paxson Tuley. He didn't come into full ownership of the land until 1863 when his mother sold the majority of her real estate on the Knob to her children: George W. Tuley, William W. Tuley, Benjamin Tuley and Seth Tuley. George Tuley was married twice. He had a son, George W. Tuley, Jr. with his first wife, Kate Evans. Kate died in 1889. George had a daughter, Harriet Tuley by his second wife, Mr. Compton. His first house burned (date to be determined) and he built a new home in 1891. The house is still standing today behind the E. V. Knight mansion, Greystone Gables (see picture 3).



*George W. Tuley House
(Note The Tower) c. 1936*

(Picture 3)

*Photo Courtesy
David Gohmann Family Collection*

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“Squire George Tuley is the distinguished agricultural, horticultural, and floricultural authority of the family. He has reduced to a science the theory that ‘blessed is the man who can make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before.’ He is still rising at 4 o’clock daily, having a contract to inhale all surplus ozone on the Silver Hills where his suburban home is located. The Squire seems to delight in the beauties, and relates with much gusto many legends and hunting adventures of the Silver Hills. So greatly has become attached to the locality that he recently erected a handsome mausoleum on the brow of the hill overlooking the city, where he expects his remains will be entombed when ‘life’s fitful fever is o’er’.” (Tuley Family Memoirs c. 1906)

Squire George Tuley died October 25, 1910. He was laid to rest in his tomb on Silver Hills. Four years later his remains were removed to Fairview Cemetery.

By 1825 all the property on the Knob west of the City, had been purchased by George Ashton, a steamboat pilot, Asahel Clapp, a doctor, and Charles Paxson, a lawyer. All three men were early pioneers who removed to the City of New Albany. Mr. Clapp and Mr. Paxson never moved to the Hill. Mr. Paxson gifted his property to Mary Crane Woodruff December 15, 1821 as a wedding present. He died within the first year of their marriage. Mr. Clapp and his heirs eventually sold all the property in Clapp Plat 169. Mr. Ashton’s property was sold to John O. Greene and he developed **“Greeneland Fruit Farm”**. The Tuley children eventually settled on the Knob, which became known as **“Highland Farm”** and **“Clifton Heights”**.