



# Silver Hills Historical Society

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## SILVER HILLS HISTORICAL SHORTS

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### Possum Hunt

Anyone up for a possum hunt? According to the Courier-Journal newspaper, Miss Penelope Hardy of Silver Hills thought so when she hosted a possum hunt and weekend house party November 11, 1916 at the country home of her parents Mr. & Mrs. William B. Hardy on Silver Hills. Penelope was sixteen. Present were: Messres and Mesdames George Bush, William B. Hardy and Joseph P. Drumesnil. Those attending the party were: Misses, Margery Cowan, Sallies Alexander, Jane Tyler, Helen Wiseman, Mary Tuley, Florence Joyes, and Messers Joe Larabee, Victor Englehard, Bushrod Taylor, Jr., Robert C. Logan, Vincent Thomas, and William Brucker. The Hardy house was built in 1905 by William B. Hardy. It is located at the top of Cherry Hill Road at the corner of Cherry Hill Road and Adams Street.

On April 20, 1904 John O. Greene and Lizzie Greene sold three acres of land located on the east side of Cherry Street Hill Road on Adams Street to William B. and Julia R. Hardy of Louisville, Kentucky, where the Hardy's built a three-story farm style summer home with a hint of Queen Anne influence. In the Courier-Journal social column published May 5, 1918, it is reported Mr. & Mrs. William B. Hardy and daughter, Penelope Hardy, and son, Mr. William Hardy, Jr., have returned to their summer home on the Silver Hills after spending the winter at their apartment in the Puritan, Louisville. William B. Hardy is the son of James Edward Hardy. James Hardy partnered with John Brinly in 1839 in what became the Brinly-Hardy Company. The company is still in existence today under the Brinly name.



### Silver In The Knobs

In 1895 the Courier-Journal reported a New Albany man found a large silver nugget in the hills and said the hills are rich in ore. Mr. Theobald, a bridge carpenter of New Albany was an iron molder and employee in a foundry at Jeffersonville. He claims he found the nugget on the knobs back of New Albany. Mr. Theobald picked up relics of implements that belonged to a mining camp, providing proof a silver mine in the knobs had one day been operated. Mr. Theobald would not give the exact location where he found the nugget and mining tools to protect his profitable find. With Mr. Theobald's reputation at stake, a reporter interviewed a number of people and was assured Mr. Theobald was perfectly reliable. It is the belief of many the original name of the hills was Silver Knobs and that Silver Creek derived its name from the same source.



In 1901 the Courier-Journal reported silver and copper had been discovered in Silver Hills, so it was claimed by Mr. George Underhill of New Albany. Mr. Underhill carried several specimens of stone or quartz containing silver and copper. Judge Stotsenburg in New Albany analyzed the stones and pronounced it silver. It was believed the hills may prove to be rich in natural mineral wealth worth millions of dollars.

# Stray Shots

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In 1917 shots were fired by squirrel hunters in the “fashionable” New Albany suburb of Silver Hills. This greatly annoyed residents on the Hill when a bullet narrowly missed Paul Zeigelbauer and a young girl’s mirror was shattered. Paul, son of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Zeiglebauer, was standing in his room at the home of his parents when a bullet fired at a squirrel by a hunter whizzed through the window and passed his head burying itself in the wall on the opposite side of the room. A few days later, a bullet was fired into the room of Miss Florence Endris, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J.O. Endris of Silver Hills, shattering a mirror over a dresser. Hunters persist in shooting around the houses on Silver Hills. Residents appealed to the New Albany police for protection but their homes are beyond the city limits and the police could do little for them.



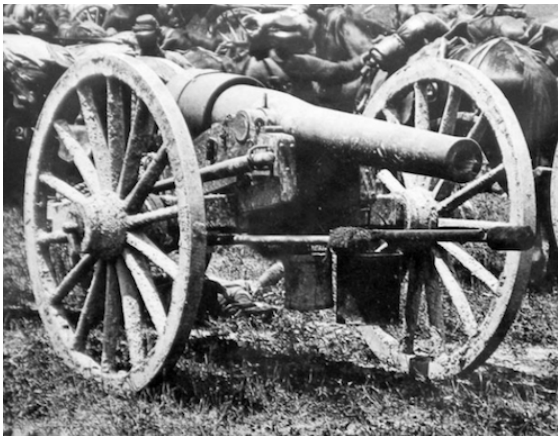
# Special Constable

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The services of a special constable was recommended by The Silver Hills Improvement Association. On November 28, 1905, the Courier-Journal reported a meeting of the men on Silver Hills was held at “Stonehenge”, home of W.P Lewis, for the purpose of forming an association of all the residents of the hilltop to organize a society to be known as The Silver Hills Improvement Association. The Association was set up to improve and keep in repair the thoroughfares leading to the hilltop from New Albany, to keep the walks and avenues cleaned and in good condition, and also provided for the services of a special constable. The constable was to act as a protector of the property of the hill dwellers with the power to make arrests. His services were required through the week when nearly all of the men were engaged in their various occupations, leaving their homes under the care of the women and servants, and on Sunday when the hills were visited by hundreds of people of New Albany and Louisville. The special constable was also to act as the fire warden in charge of the fire department “to be established”.

# Projectile

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In 1913, Walter Freeman, a high school student, found a projectile which probably had been hidden in Silver Hills for several decades. Walter was walking over the knobs when he accidentally ran across the object buried to a depth of two feet but had been exposed to view by heavy rains. The projectile was *three inches in diameter, seven inches long and weighted about ten pounds*. Its lead point gave evidence the projectile had been fired from a rifle cannon, and that it had been fired from some point during a period preceding the Civil War as since that period projectiles of this variety had not been in use. How it came to its resting point on Silver Hills or from what location it was fired will mostly never be known. It is possible the projectile was fired from a 1861 model Parrott Rife Cannon, pictured. The city of New Albany might have acquired the Parrot 10-Pounder Parrott Rife Cannon for use in a celebration, and that it was possibly fired toward the Knob west of the city (Silver Hills). Prior to 1891, there were only a hand full of people with houses scattered about on the knob.

*On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors  
of the Silver Hills Historical Society we wish  
everyone a safe and healthy journey through  
these most difficult of times.*