



Silver Hills Historical Society, Inc.

THE CLARION

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Sunday, October
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Historic
Greystone Gables
House Tour &
George W. Morrison
Art Exhibit

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY
WILLIAM C. FINDT COLLECTION

Greystone Gables Tour and George W. Morrison Exhibit

By arrangement with the Silver Hills Historical Society, Georgia and Woody Oakes graciously opened Greystone Gables for a public tour Saturday, June 6, 2015, in conjunction with a art exhibit featuring original paintings by George William Morrison.

In 1867 the Daily Commercial newspaper published a full-page story about New Albany's notable portrait painter, George W. Morrison. The article details his career, family and home on Silver Hills. Morrison is quoted as saying, "it is the most beautiful of all for painting".

Only a few blocks from where Morrison's home was perched on a hill overlooking the city of New



Woody Oakes, Georgia Oakes, Royan Gower,
Alison Oakes Davis and Shelby Oakes

Albany sits the lovely Greystone Gables today. built by Eugene V. Knight (1876 – 1972) in 1929. The house personifies E.V. Knight's success in establishing the New Albany Veneering Company as the largest furniture plywood manufacturer in the world. He first came to New Albany in 1901 and in 1907 married Katherine Frances DePauw. Katherine was the grand-daughter of the local industrialist and philanthropist, Washington C. DePauw. They had three children: Stillman DePauw Knight, Mary Jane Knight and Newland DePauw Knight. The home was designed by William D. Findt, Sr., a resident of Silver Hills, and constructed by Earl Embrey.

Not long after the house was completed, the stock market collapsed and banks failed, ushering in the Great Depression. E.V. Knight's financial holdings suffered severely. He transferred the property into his wife's name and in turn she sold Greystone Gables in 1937 to Margaret and Karl Fredrick Moser. The house remained in the Moser family for 50 years. Greystone Gables is one of the most beautiful historic homes in New Albany. The inlaid woodwork and detailed artistry is evident of the fine craftsmanship used in the building of this exquisite home.

George Morrison (1820 – 1893) was born in Baltimore, MD and came to New Albany in 1843. He established himself as a local portrait and landscape painter. In just a few years he became one of the most notable pioneer painters in the state of Indiana and throughout the region. Morrison was one of the first residents to make his home on the Knob. He bought the property at the top of what is now Spring



*Portrait by G. W. Morrison
Little Eddie Scribner, son of Dr. William Augustus
Scribner and Harriet Partridge Hale Scribner
On display at the Scribner House*

Street Road in 1851 and built a lovely home overlooking the city of New Albany. He lived there until his death in 1893. The Morrison heirs sold the property to John Otto Endris and his wife in 1902.

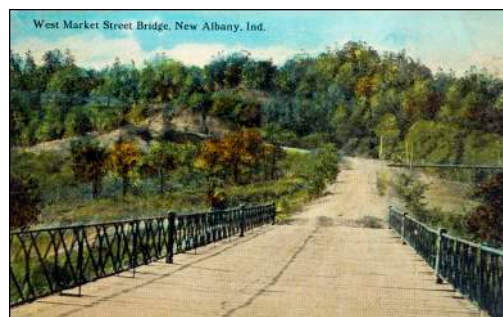
An estimated 280 people turned out

for the historical presentation. The original Morrison paintings on display looked as if they belonged in the house, bringing Greystone Gables alive with individual and family portraits dating back to the 1840's.

The event was made possible by Georgia and Woody Oakes, Nancy and George Everbach and those who shared their original Morrison paintings for the benefit of the community. We also want to thank David Condra, our keynote speaker, for his outstanding presentation, and Doug and Hunter Harriett for donating their time to auction a print of the *View of New Albany* by G. W. Morrison. We pay special tribute to those who traveled great distances to attend. Last but not least, we thank all of those who volunteered to help set up and work the event. The Greystone Gables tour and Morrison exhibit provided an opportunity to learn more about Silver Hills' heritage, which defines how we have come to cherish the community of Silver Hills.

Silver Hills Historic Nature Trail

Silver Hills Historic Nature Trail – In 1870 George W. Morrison and John B. Winsteadley built what is today Spring Street Hill Road. Mr. Morrison owned the property at the top of the hill east of the reservoirs and John Winsteadley owned all the property where the water works was located. Both men funded the construction of the road and built an iron bridge crossing Falling Run Creek at 9th Street from Market Street. Its official name is Clifton Avenue.



After Winsteadley sold his property to the New Albany Water Works Co. in 1885 and the reservoirs were completed, the road was referred to as Water Works Road. It was the Silver Hills residents who coined the name Market Street Hill

Road. The iron bridge (pictured) predates the New Albany Highland Railway trolley car line (ca. 1891) and remained in use until it was closed around 1937. The center support column still stands in the middle of Falling Run Creek. It has withstood flash floods and harsh elements for 144 years. The stone pillar is constructed of hand hewn stones stacked much like a pyramid. The column is a remarkable piece of historic architecture and is a part of Silver Hills' historic heritage.

The Silver Hills Historical Society has signed a long term lease agreement to lease 16 acres of land from Falling Run Creek to 50' west of the trolley car line trail for \$1 per year for 30 years. The Society is planning to develop a trail connecting the old Market Street Hill Road and the trolley car line trail to form a single closed loop walking trail beginning at Spring Street Hill Road and ending at Spring Street Hill Road. The old Market Street Hill Road has already been cleared and a trail connecting the two is under development. The connecting trail will run on the side of Falling Run Creek to the trolley line crossing on Main Street Hill



Road. The plan calls for constructing an attractive gateway at the entrance to the Market Street Hill Road off Spring Street Hill Road identifying the historic significance of the trail. It is the Society's intention to open the loop trail Spring of 2016. The initiative has received overwhelming support from the city of New Albany and in the form of a \$10,000 grant from the Horseshoe Foundation. The trolley car line trail was first developed in 2013. By connecting this trail to the old Market Street Hill Road we will establish a beautiful walking trail in recognition of Silver Hills' historical heritage, instilling pride in our community.

Helen Stoy Streepey (1928 – 2015) Margaret Downing Jordan Ellis (1922 – 2015)

Helen Stoy Streepey passed away January 12, 2015. Helen was the only child of Raymond and Helen Pierce Stoy. Raymond was the son of Lewis R. Stoy. Raymond Stoy's grandfather was Peter Stoy, one of the early settlers in the village of New Albany. Peter was a ship-cabin-builder from Philadelphia, PA. He married Mary E. Wickes at New Albany in 1818.

Lewis R. Stoy purchased 1.5 acres of land on Highland Avenue from James V. Kelso and his wife, Ellen Kelso September 28, 1892. The Stoy's built a lovely three story Victorian house at 307 Highland Avenue. The home remained in the Stoy family for 87 years until it was sold in 1996. Helen Stoy Streepey's mother was one of three children of Harry E. Pierce and Hannah M. Pierce of Silver Hills. Harry Pierce bought the home belonging to William P. Lewis at



Margaret & Wiley Ellis
Photograph Courtesy Mary Lynn Bundy

1301 Riddle Road in 1909. The house was originally built by Mr. Lewis in 1892.

Two daughters, Rebecca Hellams, Kathy R. Katza and one son, Robert S. Streepey, and three grandchildren survive Helen Stoy Streepey.

Margaret Downing Jordan Ellis, wife of Col. Wiley William Ellis of Silver Hills, passed away at her family home in Gulf, North Carolina May 14, 2015. Margaret was 93. Margaret Jordan married Col. Wiley William

Ellis in 1942 and moved to Silver Hills to live with her husband in the Ellis home on Riddle Road. Three Ellis generations lived on Silver Hills beginning with Wiley's parents, Raymond C. Ellis and Molly F. Ellis. Wiley was the youngest of three children.

Raymond and Molly moved to Silver Hills sometime between 1913 and 1914, and first lived on Ridgeway. May 1, 1916, Ray Ellis purchased the house at 1301 Riddle Road from Harry E. Pierce. Helen Stoy Streepey's mother, Helen Pierce, was raised in this home. Ray died in 1959 leaving the house to his family.

Margaret and Wiley Ellis stayed in his parent's home and raised four children. The house remained in the Ellis family for 62 years. It was sold in 1978. The Ellis family was widely known for their clay tennis court located at the corner of Riddle Road

and Highland Avenue across the street from their house. For nearly 30 years the court was the center of entertainment for players and neighbors on weekends and summer evenings. Col. Wiley Ellis taught just about every child on Silver Hills how to play tennis. His two sons, William Ellis II and Raymond Charles Ellis were both accomplished tennis players. William (Bill) was on the New Albany High School State Championship Team in 1968 and Charles was the state singles champion in 1971. Charles led the Georgia University tennis team to two top 16 NCAA tournaments. Margaret was a lovely woman who valued her southern breeding in manners, poise and etiquette. Two daughters, Jerry Jordan Ellis Bourdeaux, Nancy Ellis Gregorinci and two sons, William Ellis II, Raymond Charles Ellis and four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren survive her.

Looking Ahead

Pig Roast and Pot Luck Dinner Followed By A Historical Presentation About Dawson's Hollow, An African American Family Who Lived On Silver Hills

The Silver Hills Historical Society will host a pig roast and pot luck dinner for the community of Silver Hills, **Sunday, October 25, 2015 beginning at 5:30 PM at the Silver Heights Parnell Center.** The Society will provide the pig roast and those attending bring one of their favorite side dishes. Following our feast, the Silver Hills Historical Society will present the history of Silver Hills' Dawson's Hollow, an African American family who made their home in the woods at the end of Adams Street for nearly 30 years. Pam Peters of New Albany will be our keynote speaker. Pam is highly respected for her historical research about the African American community in New Albany. Pam is a member of the Silver Hills Historical Societ, Floyd County Historical Society and Southern Indiana Genealogy Society. She is solely responsible for the Lucy Higgs exhibit permanently on display at the Carnegie Center in New Albany. Following Pam's presentation, the Silver Hills Historical Society will take a few minutes to present the Silver Hills Historic Nature Trail initiative. Come pig out on roasted pork and other fine eats. If you have a story about Dawson's Hollow please come and share it with everyone.

Silver Hills Historical Society
PO Box 2025
New Albany, IN 47150