

Silver Hills

Alpha Literary Society

“Alpha Club”

Founded 1895

Alice Greene founded the Alpha Literary Society in 1895. She is the daughter and only child by John O. Greene and his wife, Elizabeth. Mr. Green owned 23 acres of land located in the northwest section of the Knob, named Greenland Fruit Farm. He had a large orchard of pear trees, cultivated strawberries and raised dairy cattle. The Greens purchased the property from George Ashton in 1860 and moved into a small cottage built by Mr. Ashton. In 1876 Mr. Greene had a beautiful three-story home built above Cherry Street Hill Road. Alice conceived the idea to organize a women’s literary club to meet once a month. She got on her bicycle and rode around the Hill calling on the women of Silver Hills recruiting members for her club. The women thought it was a great idea. The Alpha Club held their first meeting at the home of Alice Green on November 7, 1895. It was decided at the first meeting to name the club, “*Alpha*” for “the first organization on the Hill”. The following officers were elected: Miss Alice Greene, President; Mrs. Milton Prichett, Vice President and Mrs. Frank Gwin, Secretary & Treasurer. The first members were: Miss Alice Greene, Mrs. Eliza Gwin, Mrs. Martha Gwin, Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, Mrs. Annabelle Morris, Mrs. Sallie Beggs, Mrs. Nellie Stoy, Mrs. Mary Kerlin, Mrs. Elizabeth Greene, Mrs. Anna Lewis and Mrs. Jefferson Conner. Charter members were: Mrs. Frank Stoy and Mrs. Josiah Gwin. They also read literature, discussed current events and studied different cultures throughout the world. On February 22, 1896 the New Albany Tribune ran a story in the Women’s edition about the Club. Mrs. Anne Lewis, a member of The Alpha Club, wrote the article.



Alice Greene Photo Courtesy
Date Unknown The Alpha Club



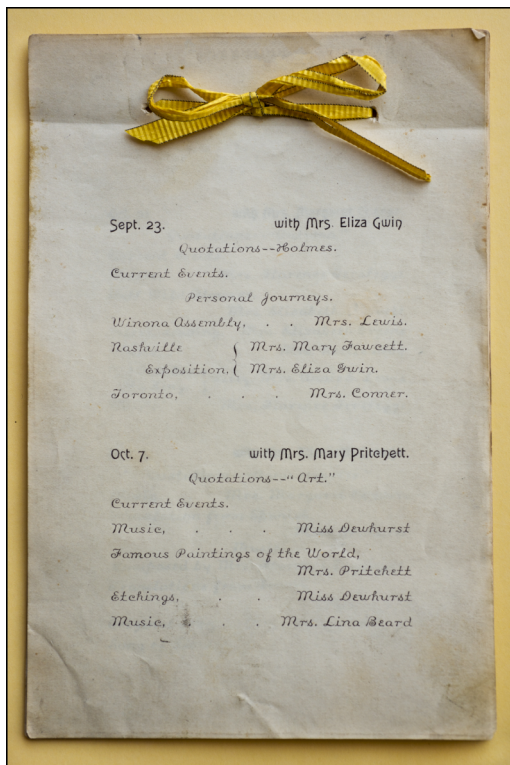
Picture left is of the home of Alice Greene. Date unknown. Courtesy, The Alpha Club.

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The Alpha; A Flourishing Silver Hills Club by Ann E. Lewis

“The Silver Hills Literary Club has made but brief history. It was organized in autumn by our enterprising young President, Miss Alice Greene. Mrs. Pritchett as Vice President and Mrs. Frank Gwin as Secretary & Treasurer are our other efficient officers. The name 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 nations most amicably and eliminate war and blood shed. Another important element of 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 Whitter, have had bright short stories, one original one and always good music as we are so fortunate as to have the leader of 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.”



Alpha Club Program
Date Unknown

Program Courtesy
The Alpha Club

Left is the Alpha Club program for 1897 to 1898. The front cover is missing. As the years progressed and the Club matured, their programs varied from reading and studying literature to listening and studying music on a Vitaphone c. 1927. The Club eventually took on civic responsibilities. The Alpha Club worked diligently with the New Albany fire department to get better fire protection on the Hill after a member's home burned down in 1929. At the Club's November 21, 1929 meeting, "The matter of Fire Protection on Silver Hills was discussed. Mrs. Mary Kelso was appointed Chairperson of a Committee to overcome the lack of fire protection on the Hill." The Club's effort resulted in the installation of two fire hydrants on the Hill. Residents were charged a monthly fee for access to the hydrants. The fee was collected by the Alpha Club. In 1935 the Alpha Club published a newspaper, The Clarion and set up a radio station. They opened the broadcast

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with, “*good afternoon neighbors, this is station **A L P H A**, Silver Hills Broadcasting Corporation.*” More than a century has gone by and the Alpha Club is still in existence with 30 plus members who meet regularly within the community of Silver Hills.