



FAMILY GROUP SHEET FOR:
ROBERT A. SILVER - SIXTH GENERATION



HUSBAND: ROBERT A. SILVER

BIRTH: 25 JAN 1849, PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

DEATH: 14 DEC 1930, KNIGHTSTOWN,
HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

WIFE: LAURA S. LAWRENCE

BIRTH: 16 SEP 1856, ELDORADO, DARKE COUNTY, OHIO

DEATH: 20 JAN 1927, KNIGHTSTOWN,
HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA

CHILDREN:

JESSIE A. SILVER

BIRTH: 27 NOV 1882, MONROE, PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

DEATH: 22 JAN 1953, MUNCIE, DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA

HOWARD L. SILVER

BIRTH: 2 OCT 1884, INDIANAPOLIS, MARION COUNTY, IN

DEATH: 2 NOV 1884, INDIANAPOLIS, MARION COUNTY, IN

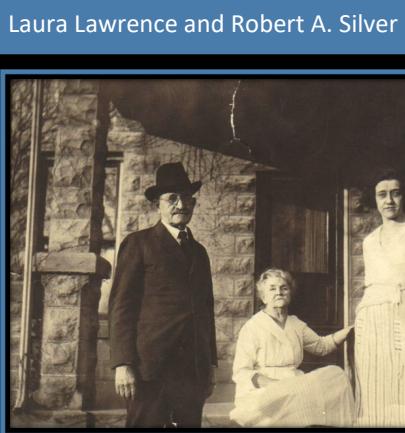
RALPH LAWRENCE SILVER

BIRTH: 7 JAN 1886, INDIANAPOLIS, MARION COUNTY, IN

DEATH: 27 JAN 1959, INDIANAPOLIS, MARION COUNTY, IN

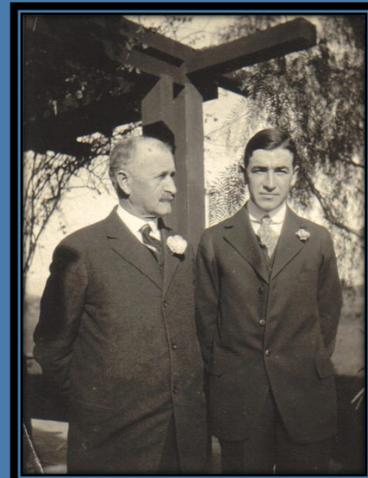


Family Home (rented 1920 - 1930)
4 W. Morgan Street, Knightstown, IN



Left: Jessie A. Silver

Right: Ralph L. Silver



ROBERT A. SILVER - SIXTH GENERATION

TIME-LINE

BIRTH:

- 25 JAN 1849

LOCATION:

- PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO

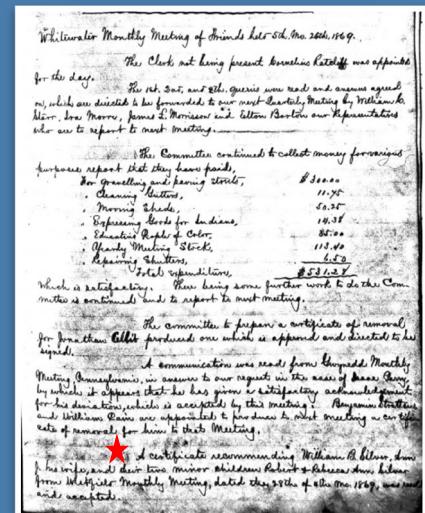
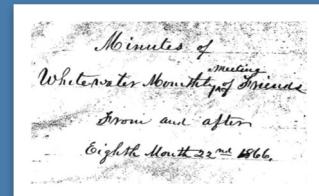
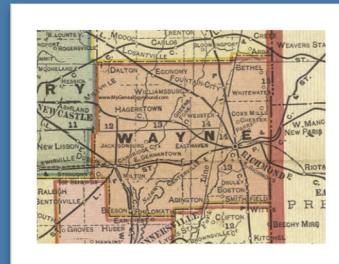
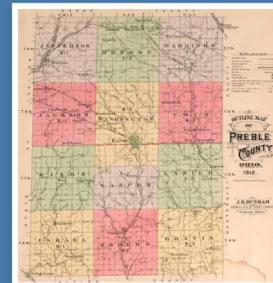
PARENTS:

- WILLIAM B. SILVER & ANN JOHNSON



RESIDENCE - U.S. FEDERAL CENSUSES; QUAKER RECORDS

- 1850-1870
- 1850- AGE 2, LIVING WITH FAMILY IN DIXON TOWNSHIP, PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO
- 1860- AGE 11, LIVING WITH FAMILY IN DIXON TOWNSHIP, PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO
- 1869- 28 APRIL RECEIVED ON QUAKER CERTIFICATE BY THE WHITEWATER MONTHLY MEETING, RICHMOND, WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA
- 1870- AGE 21, LIVING IN JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP, PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO, FARM HAND WORKING FOR WILLIAM LEE



MARRIAGE:

- 9 OCT 1879

LOCATION:

- INDIANAPOLIS, MARION COUNTY, IN

Background: Laura's father was Henry Lawrence (1819-1892) and her mother was Elizabeth Coblenz (1820-1891). The maps that follow will show the locations of their family home, church, and Henry Lawrence's place of employment.

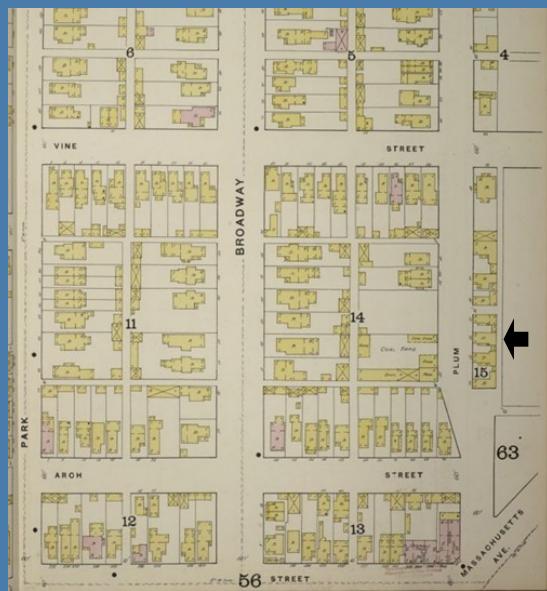
The wedding announcement below was taken from a newspaper clipping. There is no date or newspaper identification information. The announcement is recreated below.

On Thursday afternoon at the residence of the bride's parents, 35 Plum street, Robert Silvers and Laura S. Lawrence were united in wedlock by Rev. Jones, of the United Brethren Church, and left at once for the home which the groom had prepared for the bride in Eldorado, Ohio. In the marriage of Miss Laura, the young people of the Northside lose a true friend and companion, and one whose happiness and welfare they will never cease to wish.

1887

LAWRENCE FAMILY HOME

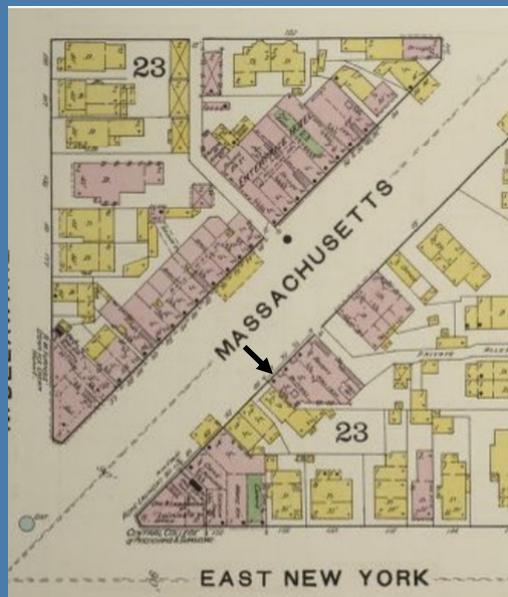
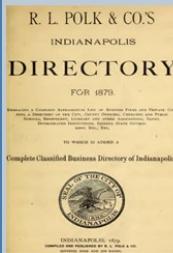
- 35 PLUM STREET,
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
- NOTE: THIS STREET IS
NOW A SEGMENT OF
COLLEGE AVENUE.



1887

HENRY LAWRENCE

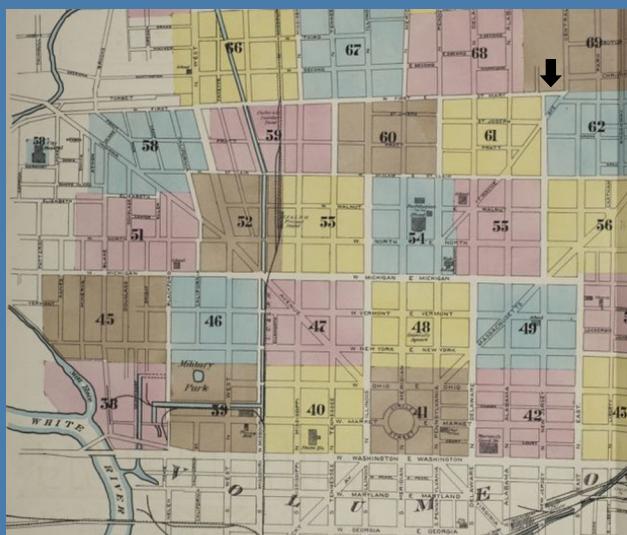
- WORKS AT A MEAT
MARKET
- LOCATED AT
71 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.,
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



1887

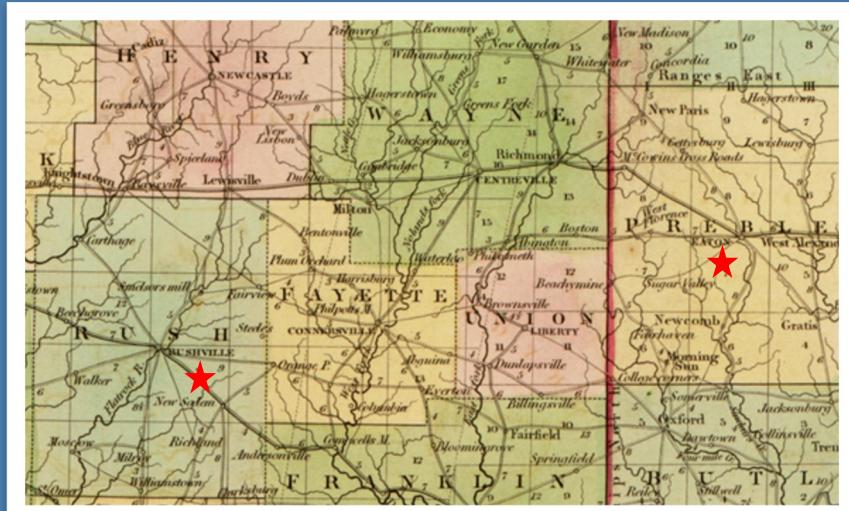
HENRY LAWRENCE

- ATTENDED UNITED
BRETHREN CHURCH
- LOCATED AT
NORTH SIDE ST. MARY
EAST OF NEW JERSEY
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
- THE STREET DOES NOT
EXIST TODAY BUT IS
APPROXIMATELY WHERE
THE RICHARD G. LUGAR
TOWERS ARE LOCATED.



RESIDENCES - U.S. FEDERAL CENSUSES

- 1880-1900
- 1880- LIVING AT 402 MILL STREET, ELDORADO, PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO; ROBERT (AGE 31), TRAVELING AGENT; LAURA (AGE 23), KEEPING HOUSE.
- 1900- LIVING AT 383 SEVENTH ST., 3RD WARD, RUSHVILLE, RUSH COUNTY, INDIANA; ROBERT (AGE 51) , COMMERCIAL SALEMAN; JESSIE AND RALPH ARE ATTENDING SCHOOL.



Source: <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/9600/view/1/1/>

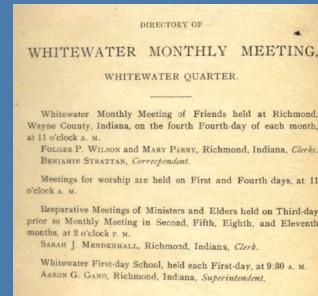
RESIDENCES AND EMPLOYMENT LISTED IN U.S. CITY DIRECTORIES - INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

- 1884- LIVING AT 365 COLLEGE AVE., TRAVEL AGENT
- 1885- LIVING AT 365 COLLEGE AVE., TRAVEL AGENT
- 1886- LIVING AT 417 ASH, TRAVEL AGENT FOR DAVID BRADLEY MANUFACTURING CO.
- 1887- LIVING AT 417 ASH, R. SILVER & CO. AGRICULTURE IMPLEMENTS, 79 W. WASHINGTON
- 1888- LIVING AT 510 ASH., TRAVEL AGENT
- 1889- LISTED IN WHITEWATER MONTHLY MEETING DIRECTORY LIVING IN INDIANAPOLIS
- 1892 CARRIAGES, 82 E. MARKET
- 1893- LIVING AT 578 PARK AVE., CARRIAGES, 78 E. MARKET
- 1894 - LIVING AT 578 PARK AVE., J C YUNKER & CO, CARRIAGES, 78 E. MARKET
- 1898- LIVING AT 1915 PARK AVE., TRAVEL AGENT
- 1899- LIVING AT 1915 PARK AVE., TRAVEL AGENT

David Bradley invented the steel moldboard plow. He sold different versions of this plow under the name, *The Garden City Clipper*. It is likely that this is one of the products sold by Robert Silver.



Photchrom of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument ca. 1904



OF WHITEWATER QUARTER.		
NAME.	BORN.	RESIDENCE AND P. O.
Strattan, Abram S.	Indianapolis, Marion Co., Ind.
Swayne, George B.	" " " " "
Shaw, John.	St. Louis, St. Louis Co., Mo.
Shute, Samuel E., Jr.	Chicago, Cook Co., Illinois.
Silver, Robert.	Indianapolis, Marion Co., Ind.

Source to left: Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

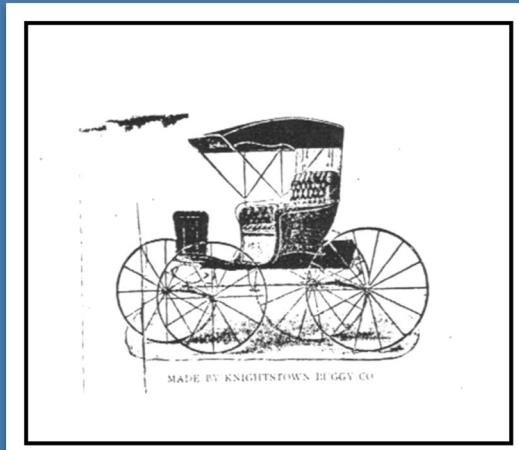
RESIDENCES - U.S. FEDERAL CENSUSES

- 1910-1930
- 1910- LIVING ON FRANKLIN STREET, KNIGHTSTOWN, WARD 4, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA; ROBERT (AGE 61), CARRIAGE MANUFACTURER; LAURA (AGE 53); DAUGHTER JESSIE (AGE 27), STENOGRAPHER FOR AN INSURANCE COMPANY.
- 1920- LIVING AT 4 WEST MORGAN ST., KNIGHTSTOWN, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA; ROBERT (AGE 71) , CARRIAGE MANUFACTURER; LAURA (AGE 63); DAUGHTER JESSIE (AGE 36), BOOKKEEPER FOR THEIR FACTORY
- 1930- LIVING AT 4 WEST MORGAN ST., KNIGHTSTOWN, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA; ROBERT (AGE 81) , WIDOWED, AUTOMOBILE BODY FACTORY, PARTNER; DAUGHTER JESSIE (AGE 45), AUTOMOBILE BODY FACTORY, PARTNER

1876 Map of Henry County



Source: David Rumsey Map Collection, David Rumsey Map Center, Stanford Libraries



RESIDENCES AND EMPLOYMENT LISTED IN - HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA DIRECTORY

- 1909- LIVING AT WEST MORGAN STREET, KNIGHTSTOWN, HENRY COUNTY, INDIANA (ROBERT, LAURA, JESSIE & RALPH) ; KNIGHTSTOWN BUGGY CO., (BUGGIES). S. FRANKLIN (SILVER, L S, VICE-PRES, KNIGHTSTOWN BUGGY CO.



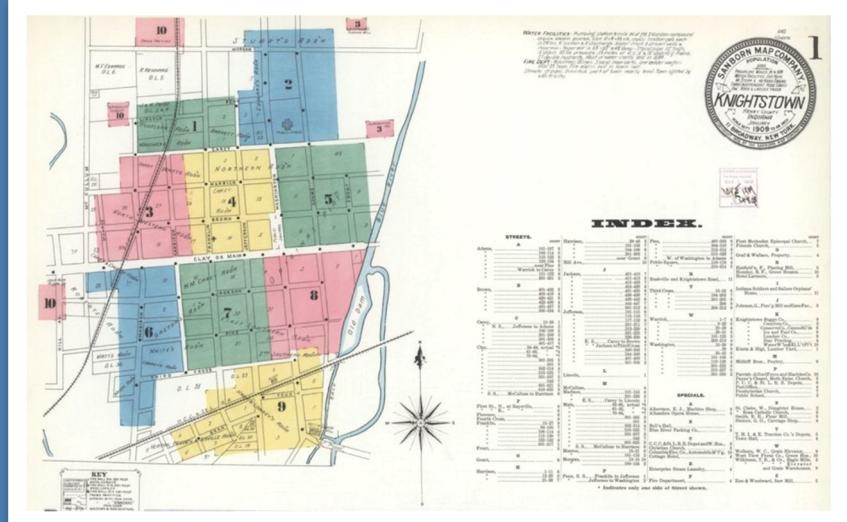
Source: Complete Directory of Henry County, Indiana, Comprising a List of All Residents of the Cities and Towns Together with an Accurate Rural List, Giving Number of Acres Owned, Title, Section Numbers and Rural Routes – J.M. Minch Co (1909)

KNIGHTSTOWN BUGGY CO.

- INCORPORATED ON 22 DEC 1900
- ROBERT SILVER, PRESIDENT; MASON WALTERS, SECRETARY & TREASURER; & ROBERT LOGAN, UNSPECIFIED MANAGEMENT POSITION.
- CAPITALIZED WITH ISSUANCE OF 200 SHARES (\$50 EACH)
- PRODUCTS- RUBBER-TIRED BUGGIES, CARRIAGES, OTHER TYPES OF HORSE-DRAWN VEHICLES, STORM-TOP BUGGY, FIRST CALL WAGONS, & ELABORATE, HIGH-GRADE, MOSQUE DECK HEARSE WITH CHOICE OF EIGHT-COLUMN CARVED PANEL OR GLASS-SIDED.
- COMPANY WAS DISSOLVED ON 26 JUN 1922; ROBERT SILVER & MASON WALTERS EACH HELD 35 SHARES; THEIR WIVES LAURA SILVER & MARTHA WALTERS HELD 10 SHARES EACH; 90 SHARES WERE OUTSTANDING.

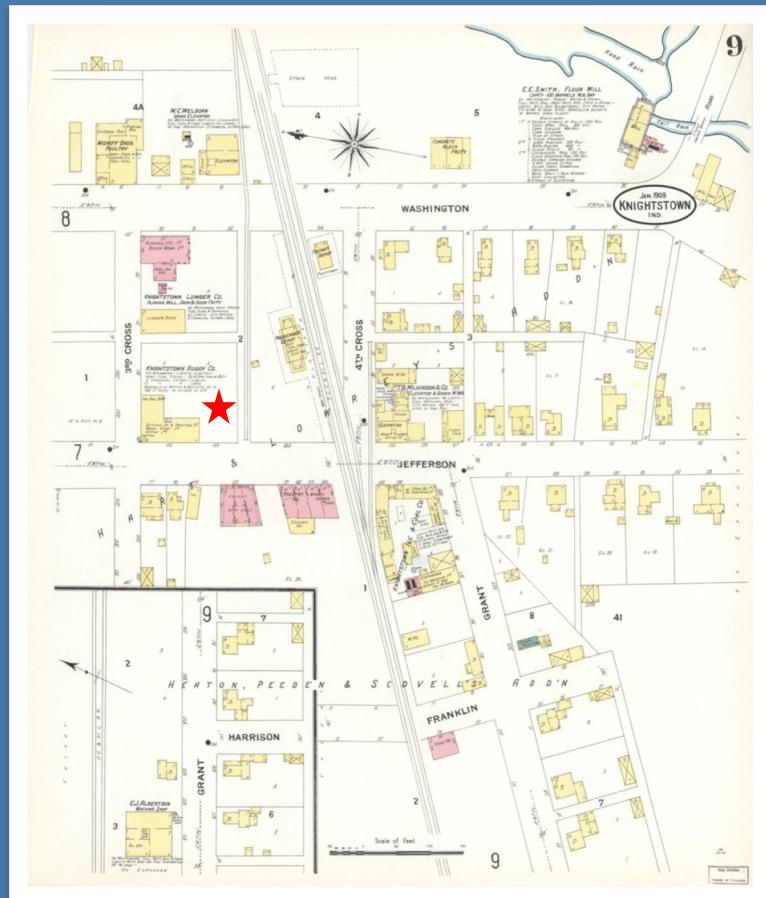
SOURCE: MCPHERSON, THOMAS A., PROFESSIONAL CARS FROM KNIGHTSTOWN, THE PROFESSIONAL CAR, NUMBER 92, SECOND QUARTER 1999.

1909 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map - Knightstown, Henry County, Indiana

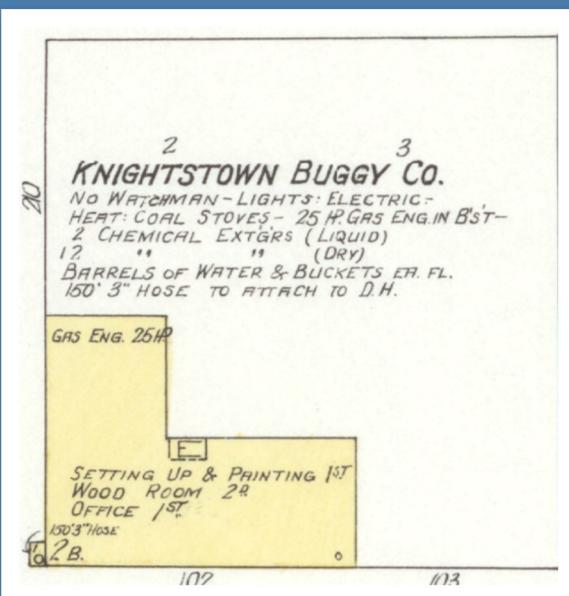


Source: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g4094km.g4094km_g023801909

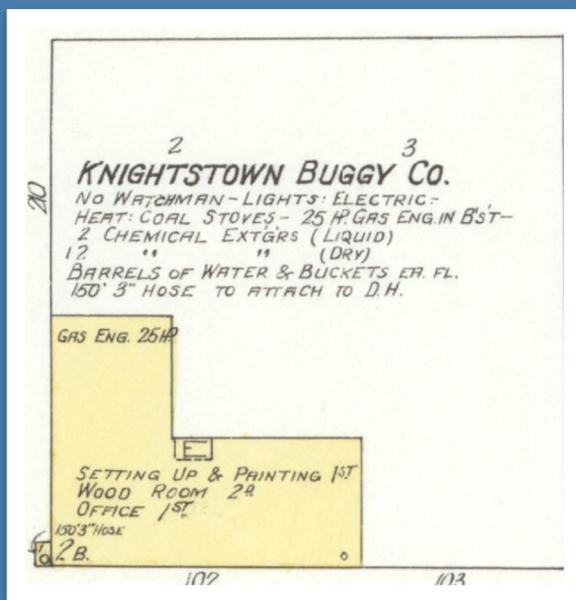
K	
Knightstown Buggy Co.,-----	9
" Concrete Co.,-----	3
" ConserveCo., Canned G'ds	6
" Ice and Fuel Co.,-----	9
" Lumber Co.,-----	9
" Star Printing,-----	4
" WaterW'ks&El. L'tPl't	10
Kuntz & Higi, Lumber Yard,-----	1



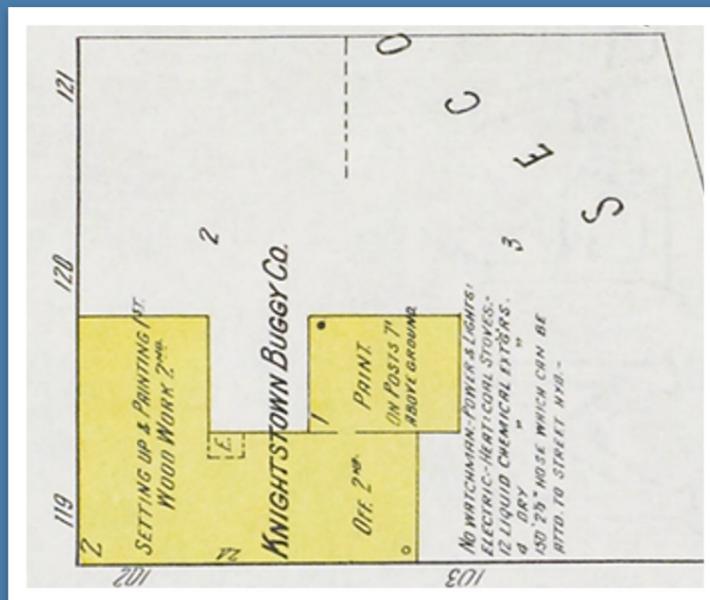
Source: https://www.loc.gov/resource/g4094km.g4094km_g023801909/?sp=9



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map - Knightstown, Henry County, Indiana

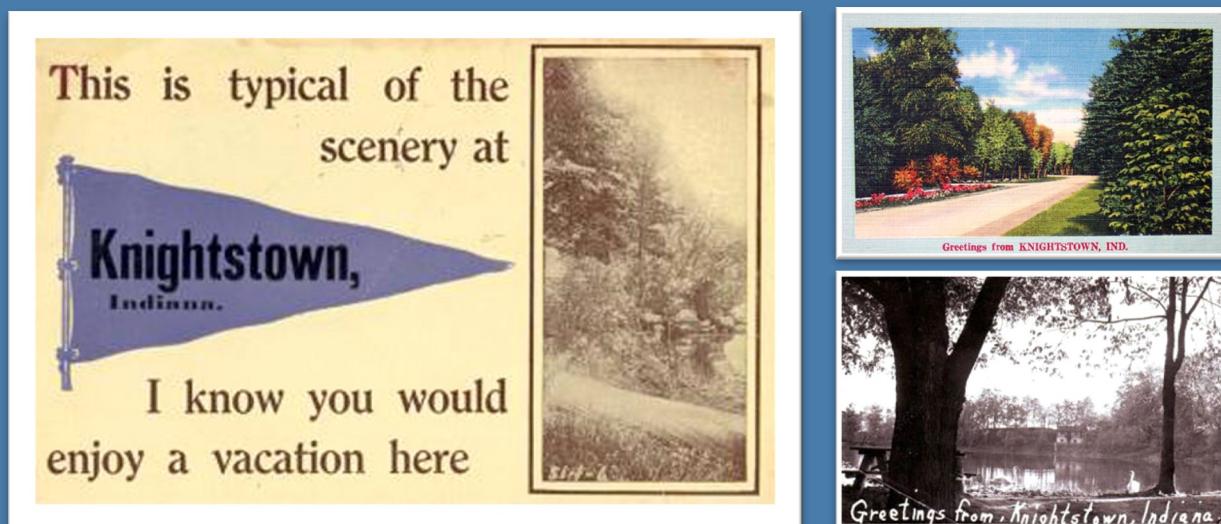


1909 Map



1916 Map (Paint Building Added)

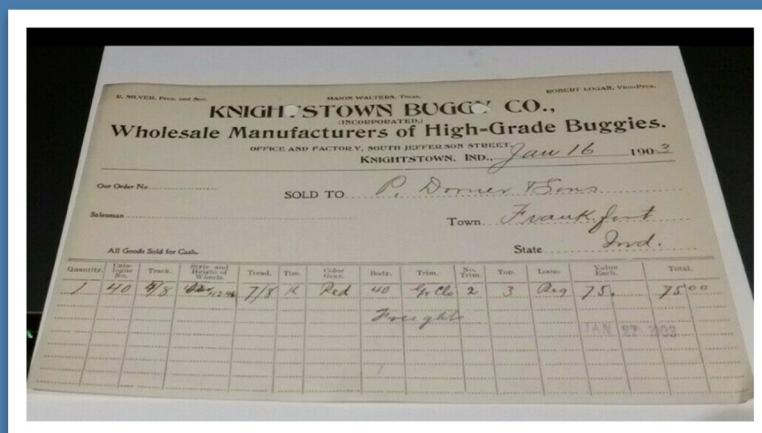
Source 1916 Map: <https://libraries.indiana.edu/union-list-sanborn-maps>



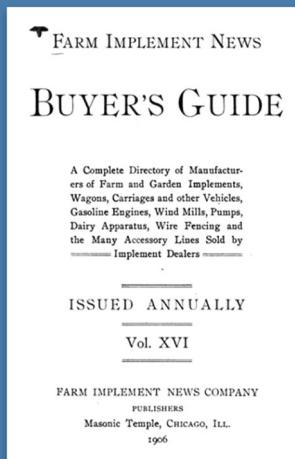
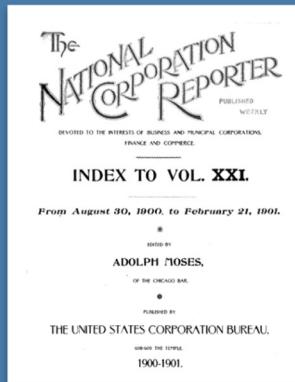
Source for above postcards: <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~inhenry/pictorial.html>

KNIGHTSTOWN BUGGY CO. - CONTINUED

Company Receipt - 16 Jan 1903

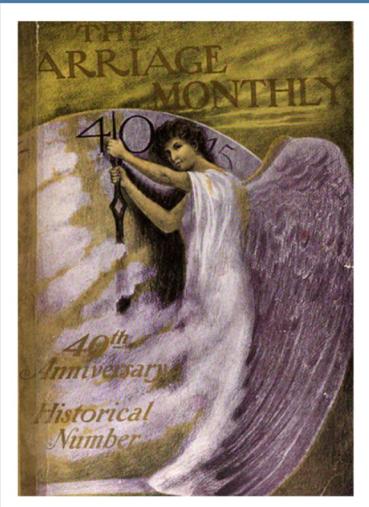


Trade Magazines/Directories



Knightstown Buggy Co., Knightstown.
Buggies and undertakers' wagons.

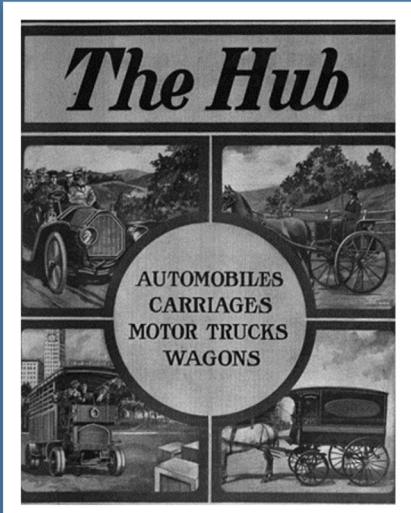
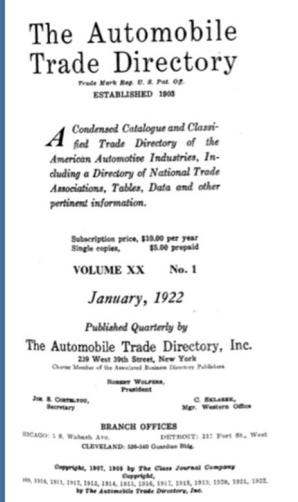
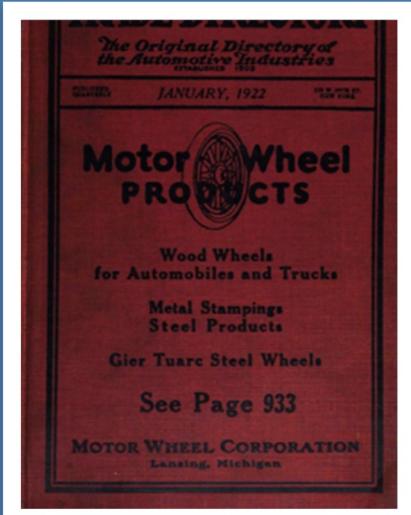
Trade Magazines/Directories



The Knightstown Buggy Co.

The Knightstown Buggy Co., Knightstown, Ind., were established in 1900. Their capacity is 2,000 vehicles annually. The officers are R. Silver, vice-president and secretary; Mason Walters, treasurer.

Knightstown Buggy Co., Knightstown, Indiana [Listed under – Bodies, Wood Commercial Car]

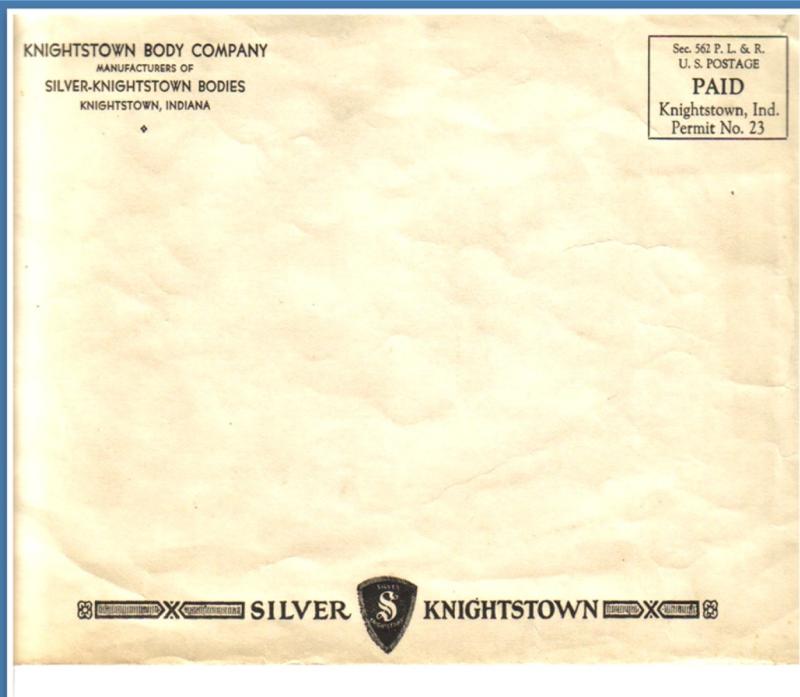


- Carriages and Wagons Finished
Knightstown (Ind.) Buggy Co.
- Carriages, Wagons and Automobiles in the White
Knightstown (Ind.) Buggy Co.

SILVER-KNIGHTSTOWN BODY CO.

- INCORPORATED ON 22 DEC 1926
- ORIGINALLY CALLED KNIGHTSTOWN BODY CO., ADDED THE SILVER NAME, WHEN OLD PARTNERS, CHARLES AND MARTHA WALTERS AND OTHERS, FORMED THE KNIGHTSTOWN FUNERAL CAR COMPANY.
- OFFICERS: ROBERT SILVER, RALPH L. SILVER (SON), & JESSIE SILVER (DAUGHTER)
- OPERATED OUT OF THREE BUILDINGS, 21,000 SQ. FT.
- ORIGINAL BUILDING (BUGGY CO.) ON JEFFERSON ST. HAD 2 FLOORS AND A BASEMENT. CHASSIS LENGTHENING IN BASEMENT; METAL DEPARTMENT & COMPANY'S OFFICES ON 1ST FLOOR; BRUSH PAINTING & STORAGE ON 3RD FLOOR.
- TWO-STORY 3,200 SQ.FT. WOODWORKING DEPT. BUILDING ON WASHINGTON ST.
- 4,200 SQ.FT. PAINT, UPHOLSTERY, & FINAL ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT BUILDING
- 10 MAR 1927, ROBERT SILVER ISSUED A U.S. PATENT FOR A SIDE-LOADING, ROLLERS MOUNTED ON THE FLOOR, CASKET MECHANISM FOR FUNERAL CARS
- IN 1943, RALPH & JESSIE SILVER CLOSED DOWN THE COMPANY AT THE START OF WWII, DUE TO LABOR & SUPPLY SHORTAGES.

SOURCE: MCPHERSON, THOMAS A., *PROFESSIONAL CARS FROM KNIGHTSTOWN*, THE PROFESSIONAL CAR, NUMBER 92, SECOND QUARTER 1999.



Official Company Mailing Envelope

SILVER-KNIGHTSTOWN

SUPER AMBULANCE

To obtain the full advertising value of your ambulance, it must be more than just a vehicle to transport the sick. It must be more than comfortable, more than dependable, even more than beautiful... it must be distinctive.

This Silver-Knightstown, mounted on a dependable chassis, fully equipped will obtain for you the maximum of advertising obtainable from this class of equipment.

First aid cabinet supplying running hot and cold water, drainage, and adequate cabinet space for all necessary supplies is furnished with this ambulance when desired. Fans, spot lights, siren, paper cup dispenser, ambulance cot are supplied when ordered fully equipped.

A Word of Explanation

"Silver-Knightstown" is one of our trade names, but the product of the Knightstown Body Company who were building equipment for the Funeral Director during the days when this equipment was drawn by horses. Silver, being the name of the officers of our company, has been added to the name to our product in an effort to avoid some of the confusion created by another company adopting a similar name.

KNIGHTSTOWN BODY COMPANY
Builders of High Grade Equipment for the Funeral Director Since 1900
KNIGHTSTOWN
P. O. Box 187

Southern Representatives:
H. A. Blanchard, Atlanta
399 Sixth St.

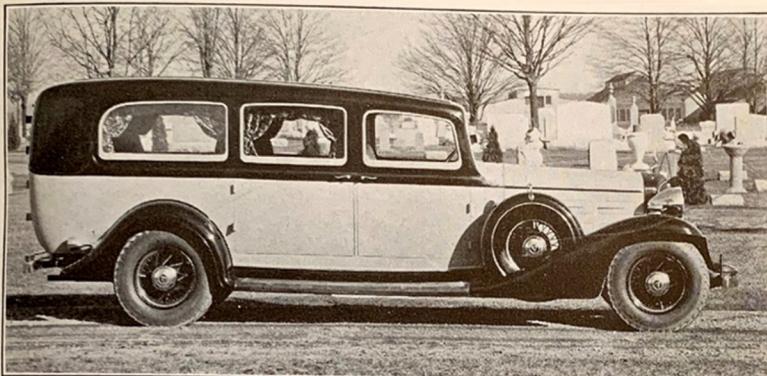
H. S. Copenhagen, Jackson, Miss.
P. O. Box 410

T. R. Bounds, Alexandria, La.
1825 Mary St.

INDIANA

Source: February, 1929, Southern Funeral Director

SILVER-KNIGHTSTOWN BODY CO., CONT.



1933 Model Cadillac V-8
Funeral Car

Recently delivered to
Geo. Baque, Brooklyn, N. Y.



Town Car Service Body
on Rolls-Royce Chassis

Recently delivered to
Walter B. Cooke, Inc., New York City

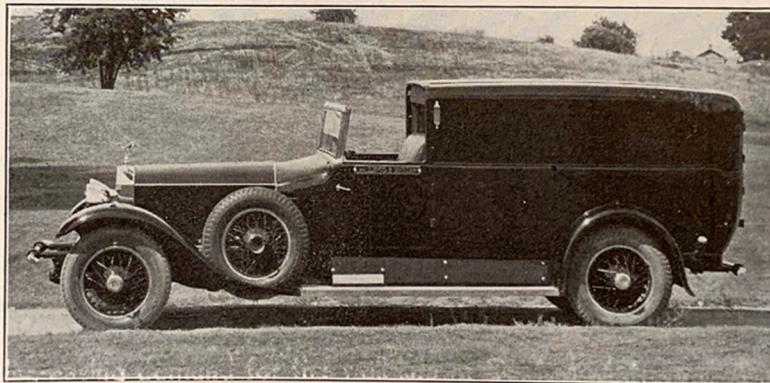
SILVER-KNIGHTSTOWN

We specialize in building
**Funeral Car, Ambulance
and Service Car Bodies
for Any Standard Chassis**

Write to-day for details

**Knightstown Body Co.
Knightstown, Ind.**

P. O. Box 158 Established in 1900



Source - The American Funeral Director Magazine, March, 1933

SILVER-KNIGHTSTOWN BODY CO., CONT.

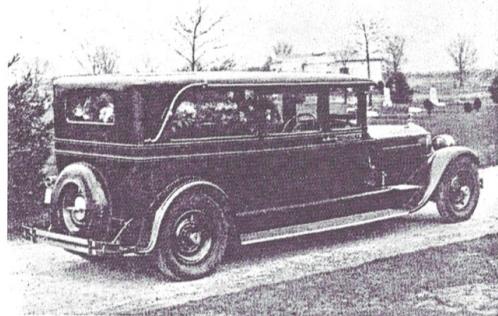
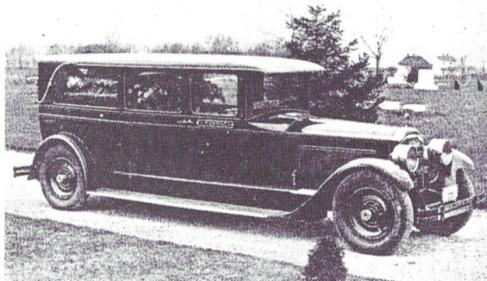
March, 1928

SOUTHERN FUNERAL DIRECTOR

5

Silver-Knightstown Side-Loading

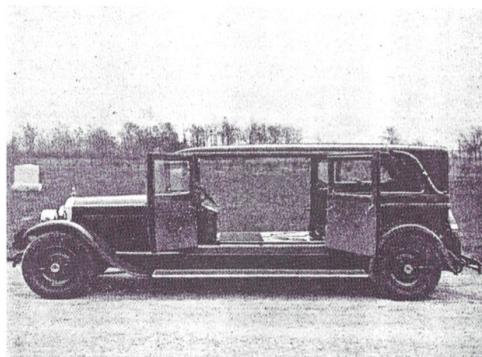
It was the public demand for progressive, sane burial equipment that caused the gruesome, old-fashioned carved hearse to be replaced by the modern limousine funeral coach. Now the same trend in the public taste has inspired a further improvement in the mortician's rolling stock—the side-loading funeral car—of which the exclusive Silver-Knightstown pictured here is the outstanding example.



The Silver-Knightstown is beyond the experimental stage. We have numerous satisfied customers at the time other manufacturers are experimenting. The self-guiding of the casket from either side without the use of complicated mechanism to rattle or get out of order is where the Silver-Knightstown model excels.

Let us tell you more about this practical side-loading feature.

Getting the casket to and from the coach is considered by many funeral directors, the "zero hour" of the whole service. The mental anguish caused the bereaved family when they see from their own car the truck-like interior and the crude method of loading from the rear is largely reduced by the modern side-loading method.



KNIGHTSTOWN BODY CO., Knightstown, Ind.

Established in 1900

Southern Representatives:—H. A. Blanchard, Atlanta; H. S. Copenhagen, Jackson, Miss.; T. R. Bounds, Alexandria, La.

- 10 -

Source - Southern Funeral Director Magazine, March, 1928

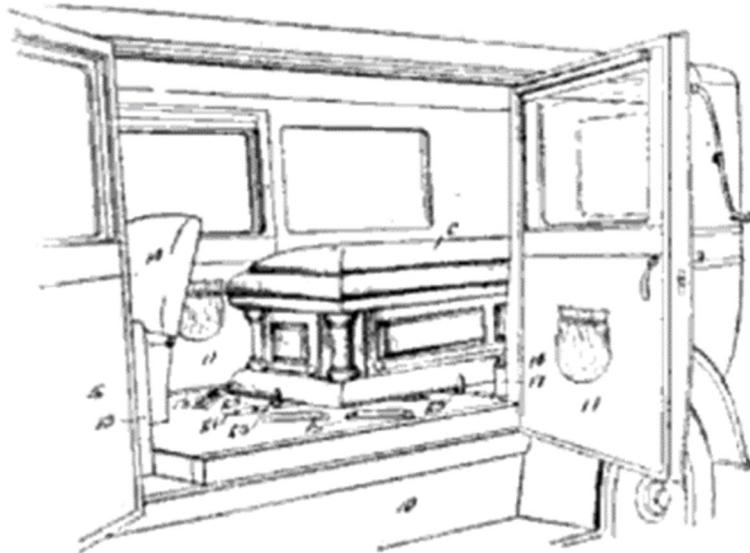
SILVER-KNIGHTSTOWN BODY CO. , CONT.
ROBERT SILVER'S U.S. PATENT FOR SIDE-LOADING
FUNERAL CAR FLOOR MOUNTED CASKET ROLLERS

AUGUST 14, 1928

U. S. PATENT OFFICE.

465

1,680,811. FUNERAL CAR. ROBERT SILVER, Knights-town, Ind. Filed Mar. 10, 1927. Serial No. 174,354. 8 Claims. (Cl. 296—16.)



1. The combination of a vehicle body, doors mounted in each side of the body and adapted to provide an unobstructed opening through which a casket may be loaded, and rollers mounted in the floor of said body and having their axes positioned obliquely with respect to said vehicle body for guiding a casket from an angular to a longitudinal position and rollers mounted in the floor of the body with their axes transverse of the vehicle for guiding the casket longitudinally of the vehicle, substantially as set forth.

OFFICIAL GAZETTE

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

VOLUME 373
AUGUST
1928

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1928

The Knightstown Banner

- KNIGHTSTOWN, IN
- 13 APR 1934

PAGE 1



Review Town's Fourth Large Factory

Abundant material for the final chapter of the serial story, "Better Business," written around the present, past and future activities of Knightstown's industrial units, was found at the factory of the Knightstown Body Company, the oldest concern in the town, and the second largest, which for 34 years has contributed to the material welfare of the community. This company manufactures Silver-Knightstown funeral car, ambulance and service car bodies which are sold largely to undertakers throughout the United States, as well as in Canada.

Operations at this company's plant, which embraces three buildings and a separate boiler building, extending from Jefferson to Washington street, north of the Pennsylvania tracks, are at present on full capacity basis, with 33 men regularly employed. New men have been added in the last week and others are to be taken on as soon as they are available. Despite the unemployment situation, expert help of the kind needed in this business is not always easy to find.

At present there are cars in every department of the plant, going through the various processes of manufacture, while others are yet waiting to be started through. Chassis of these cars, sent to the factory by the customers, will be sent out from the local plant complete with new funeral car or ambulance bodies, custom built and finished with metal fittings and upholstered according to specifications.

Nearly all chassis are of the larger and more expensive types, such as Packard, Cadillac and Lincoln, with even an occasional Rolls-Royce. Some idea of the factory's market may be had from the fact that there are at present in process of manufacture ten bodies which go to New York City and the metropolitan areas; two to Portland, Oregon; two to Georgia; one to Texas; one to South Carolina and others to Chicago, Cleveland and other parts of the country.

Among the bodies now being built is a funeral car body on a Rolls-Royce chassis, which has been purchased by an undertaker in New York City, who is said to have the largest undertaking business in the United States, and probably in the world. This is the fifth body built by the Knightstown Body Company for this customer—four funeral cars and one service car—in the last year and a half, all on Rolls-Royce chassis. Another interesting job now going through the plant is a new air-flow funeral car, being built in the streamline model on a new DeSoto chassis. This was one of the first of the new type DeSoto chassis released and will be one of the first, if not the first, funeral car body built on the new streamline model.

The three buildings which house the company's plant have a total floor space of 21,000 square feet. The original building, facing Jefferson street, contains two floors and a basement. In the basement is the chassis lengthening department, where chassis are extended to fit the longer bodies. The metal department is on the main floor, as is also the office. The third floor is used for brush painting work and for storage. The brick building, facing Washington street, 40x50 feet in size and with two floors, houses the woodworking department, and here also the raw lumber material is stored.

The third building, a modern structure erected in recent years, is 60x70 feet in size, and of tile, steel and concrete construction, with the newest heating, lighting and ventilating facilities. The north end of this building contains the painting department, and the south side the upholstering and fitting department.

When a chassis is brought in it is first lengthened to specification,

and then goes to the woodworking department, where the body framework is built. Then it goes to the metal department, where the wooden frame is covered with metal. It is then ready for the paint department, where lacquer is applied with the spray-gun method, and the final operation is fitting with metal trimmings, wiring and upholstering.

Every operation in the manufacture of a body, from lengthening the chassis to the final assembly, is one requiring the most painstaking skill, craftsmanship and experience. Many of the expert workmen employed have been with the company 10 years or longer, and few less than five years, while Earl McCormick, supervisor of production, has been with the concern since it started, 34 years ago.

Silver-Knightstown funeral cars are made in two models, the rear loading and the three-way loading types. The company was one of the first in the country to manufacture a side-loading hearse. Ambulances and service cars, like the funeral cars, are custom built, on any standard chassis.

The company has salesmen who cover large sections of the country in the interest of its products. Warren Edwards, of Knightstown, covers Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky and Michigan. Other salesmen have headquarters in New York City, Atlanta, Ga., and on the Pacific coast. The company also has representatives and agents in other parts of the country. In addition to sending its products throughout North America, the company two years ago shipped a funeral car to Peru, South America.

The history of the Knightstown Body Company dates back to 1900, when the Knightstown Buggy Company was started in the original building of the present company. Rubber tire buggies and other horse-drawn vehicles were manufactured, and eventually a storm-top buggy, which had a wide market. The company was incorporated in 1905, and in 1907, with the advent of motors and the decline in the demand for buggies, started making a first call wagon for undertakers. Later it began building hearses, of the ornamental panel type then in use, and drawn by horses. When undertakers began motorizing their equipment, these were placed on motor chassis when brought in by customers, or new hearses built.

When, in 1924-25, the old style hearse began to pass out and the modern limousine sedan type began to find favor, the company kept pace with the new trend and began building the new bodies. Being among the first in this field and soon establishing a high reputation for its products it has prospered and grown into the substantial business it is today.

The company has kept its plant running fairly steady all through the years of the depression. At times when orders were slack, it was the policy to keep all the employees working at least part time. Plans for expansion, including a modern new building to replace the original building, with increased equipment and facilities, were held in abeyance on account of the depression. However, as soon as business has returned to something like normal, it is the plan to go ahead with additions and improvements.

Robert Silver, president of the old Knightstown Buggy Company, continued as president of the Knightstown Body Company for many years. On his death a few years ago his son, Ralph L. Silver, succeeded him as president and is also general manager. His daughter, Miss Jessie Silver, long associated with her father in the business, is secretary-treasurer. These two are the sole owners. Miss Edith Fort, stenographer, has been with the company several years.

ASBURY PARK PRESS

- ASBURY PARK, NJ
- 21 JUN 1936
- PAGE 1

Newsapers
by Ancestry

Asbury Park Press (Asbury Park, New Jersey) - 21 Jun 1936, Tue - Page 1

Downloaded on Jul 8, 2020



City receives ambulance from Knightstown Body co.

First Aid Squad Gets Ambulance

(Staff Correspondent)

MANASQUAN — The local first aid squad's new ambulance has arrived from the Silver-Knightstown Body company, Knightstown, Ind., and will be turned over to the squad this evening.

The ambulance, whose list price is more than \$6,200, will replace one of the two older apparatus now being used by the local squad. The replaced ambulance will be offered for sale "very reasonably," Raymond McGreevey, squad captain reported.

The ambulance was built on a 12-cylinder Lincoln chassis. It is white with white-painted aluminum interior. It is equipped with 15 small compartments built into the side walls and also compartments for resuscitator equipment, oxygen tanks, life rings and ropes. It will carry two patients.

The local first aid squad drew up the specifications on which the ambulance was built. It was purchased thru the Howard Height agency, this place. Harry J. Wagner, Long Branch, is agent for the Silver-Knightstown firm which built the body.

The local squad raised funds to purchase the apparatus thru subscriptions and a series of benefit parties throughout the winter and spring.

The ambulance will be used to answer emergency calls.

ANTIQUE WEEK

- VOL. 52 ISSUE NO. 2018
- 25 NOV 2019
- PAGES 2 & 4



PAGE 2 NEWS

Local residents would like to see rare car come home

By ERIC C. RODENBERG

KNIGHTSTOWN, Ind. — A simple post on the Knightstown History Stuff Facebook page has ignited the passion of several folks who would like to see a rare vehicle made in this east central Indiana town come back. The post mentioned a 1937 Packard Hearse that was for sale on eBay.

The 1937 Packard Hearse was built by the Silver-Knightstown Body Co. That firm got its start as the Knightstown Buggy Co., which was founded in 1900 by Robert L. Silver and Charles Walters to manufacture carriages, wagons and hearses for Indiana and Ohio clientele. In 1922, the two owners split with Silver reorganizing the business as The Silver-Knightstown Body Co. In 1924, Walters formed the Knightstown Funeral Car Co., marketing Knightstown Galahads.

The Silver Company, which produced the 1937 Packard Hearse for sale on eBay, manufactured high quality hearses and caskets for funeral homes and government departments across the country. Their coaches were built on the finest chassis available, primarily Cadillac and Lincoln. However, the



Above: More than 20-feet long, this 1937 top-of-the-line Packard Hearse may be the last one left in the country. Made in Knightstown, Ind., the car is drawing an appreciable amount of attention on eBay auctions from East Central Indiana natives.

firm also would build on customer-supplied chassis, with some of the more upscale Silver-Knightstown hearses riding on Packard chassis used in production were rationed after World War II ended. The Packard 120 was produced by the Packard Motor Car Co. of Detroit from 1935 to 1937, and from 1939 through the 1941 model years.

Many collectors consider the Packard 120 as the best-driving Packard ever made. It had independent front suspension and superior brakes, in addition to its improved power to weight ratio.

Both the Silver and Walter compa-

nies survived until World War II when skilled manpower was called into the Armed Forces and materials used in production were rationed.

After the war, Robert Peacock, who had been a foreman at the Silver Knightstown Funeral Car Co., recruited many of the employees of the Silver firm. To avoid confusion he renamed his company the National Hearse Co. He continued to produce and sell hearses until the early 1970s when the plant was closed.

The car is being sold by the St

SEE HEARSE ON PAGE 4

PAGE 4

www.ancient.com



Above: Not often seen, the Silver-Knightstown label. Robert L. Silver was involved with the manufacturing of hearses from 1900 to the beginning of World War II, when the company was forced to close due to lack of manpower and rationing of production material.

Hearse

FROM PAGE 2

defined as one of the finest barn finds in many decades. "We were delighted to have the chance to bring this special Packard back to St. Louis in hopes of restoring it someday," Car Museum officials said. Howard cited "various constraints and the ideal end result we would desire," the firm decided to sell the hearse.

One of the people who expressed interest in the car was a man looking to bring the car "home" was Knightstown High School 1963 graduate Patrick Chase Chase, now living in Texas, is a history aficionado (with a degree in history) from Louisiana State University.

"Maybe we could partner with whoever else wants to buy it," he said. "I'd be happy to help him for one reason, it's a hearse or a Packard. We are the third reason because it is from Knightstown."

The 282-cubic-inch inline 8-cylinder engine was mated to a three-speed transmission, according to the St. Louis Car Museum. However, the car does have some "extras," including trumpet horns, factory heater, dash clock and a leather top that can be folded down.

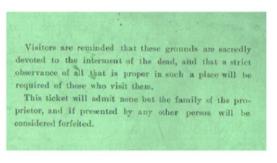
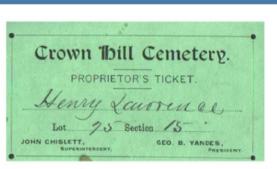
In the era, the car radio would have been a rare — somewhat early — addition, according to Faust at the St. Louis Museum. "It was a bit impractical to Chase's thinking. Driving back and forth from the Brooklyn funeral home to cemeteries and morgue, 'the driver wanted to keep up with the Dodge's games,'" Chase said.

Now, the Packard 120 was one of the high-end chassis that Silver Knightstown hearses were built upon. The Silver Company was renowned for building quality, state-of-the-art hearses.



DEATH AND BURIAL

- 14 DEC 1930
- KNIGHTSTOWN, HENRY COUNTY, IN
- BURIAL AT CROWN HILL CEMETERY, INDIANAPOLIS, IN
- BURIED WITH OTHER LAWRENCE AND HENDRICKSON EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS.



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

Local No. 25
State Registered No. 36720

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

If death occurred in a hospital, give its NAME instead of street and number.

Place of Death: Henry Silver
County of Henry
Township of Knightsbridge
City of Knightsbridge (No.)

Date of Death: Dec 14, 1930
(Month) (Year)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from Dec 1, 1930, to Dec 14, 1930,
that I last saw him alive on Dec 14, 1930,
and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 10:20 A.M.

The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Cerebral Thrombosis

Age: 81 years, 10 months, 19 days
If LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

OCCUPATION:
(a) Trade, occupation, or
business, kind of work.
(b) General nature of industry
in which employed, or
business in which engaged.

BIRTHPLACE:
(State or country) Ohio

NAME OF FATHER: Wm P. Silver

BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER: New Jersey

MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: Anna Johnson

NAME OF MOTHER: Delia

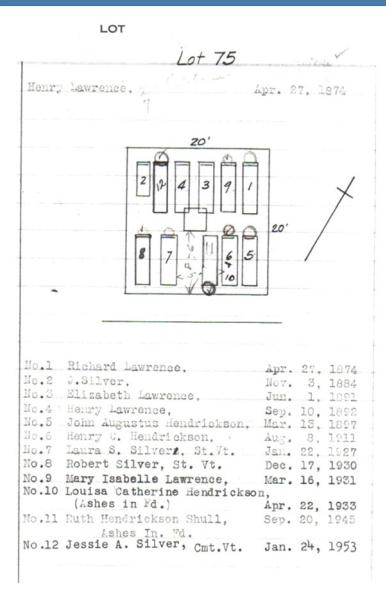
Informant: Knightsbridge M. D.
(Address) Knightsbridge M. D.
Burial permit issued by Floyd N. Roberts, M.D.
Date Dec 16, 1930.

AGE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL: Crown Hill and 12/17, 1930
DATE OF BURIAL: Crown Hill and 12/17, 1930

UNINTERRED: At Knightsbridge

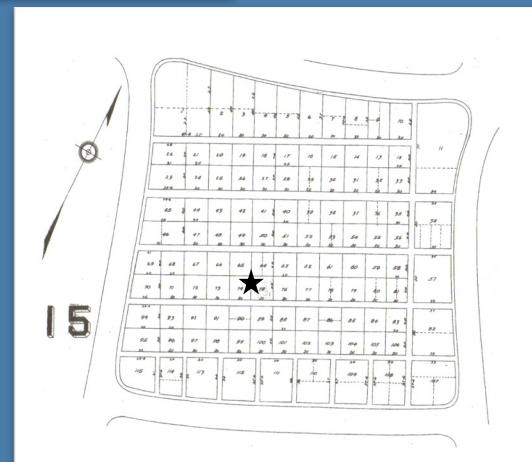
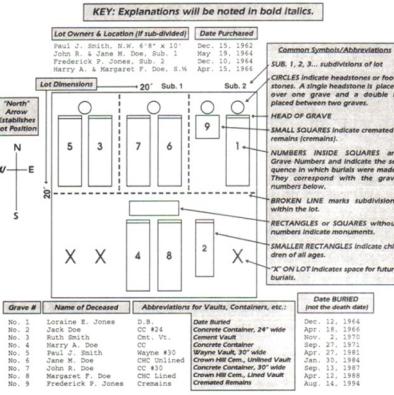
ADDRESS: Knightsbridge
Cemetery

WAS THE BODY EMBALMED? yes
EMBALMER'S LICENSE NO. 8041

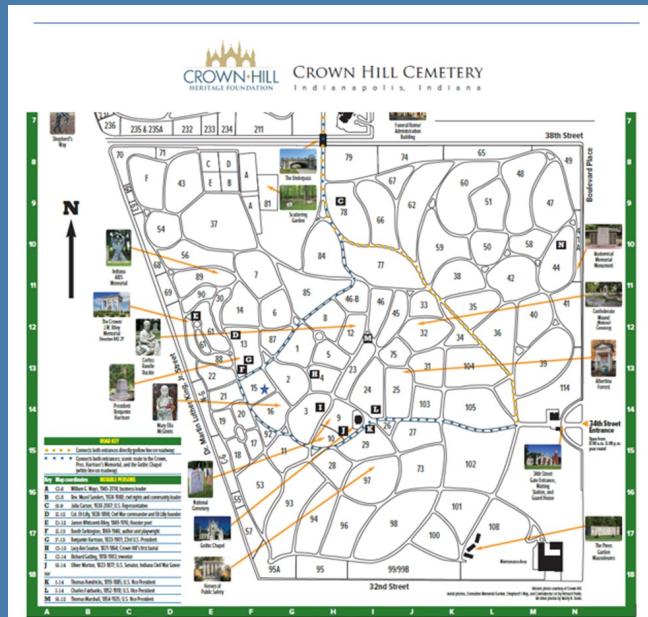
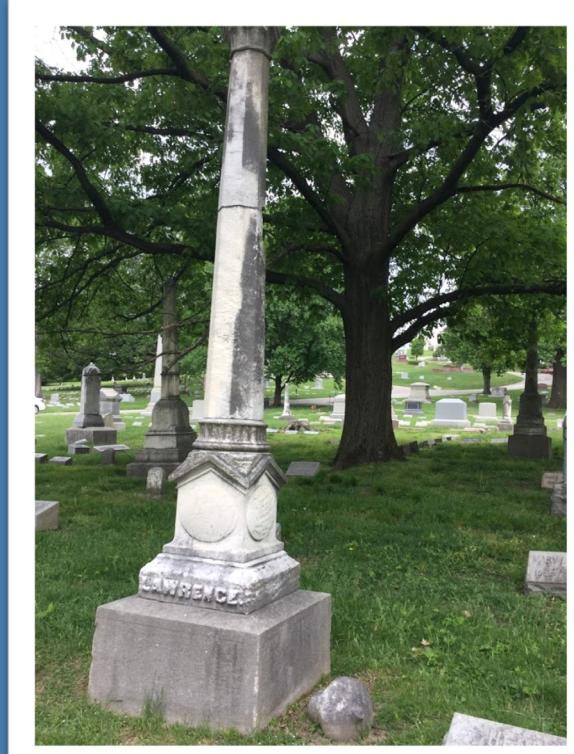
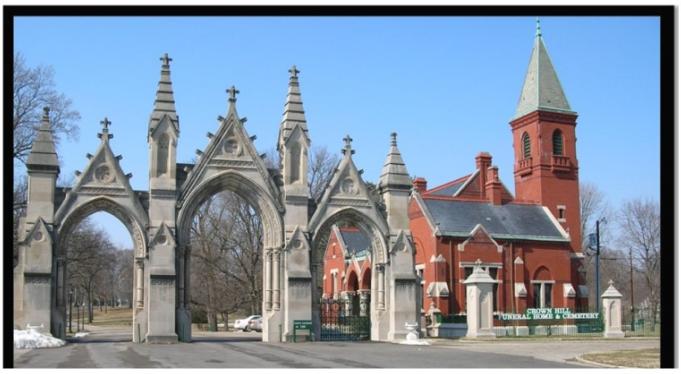


UNDERSTANDING LOT MAPS

If you have a photocopy of a family lot at Crown Hill, it will probably resemble the one below. Most people don't understand the symbols and/or abbreviations we use, so we'll explain them here. Burials have been recorded in our books since the first burial on June 1, 1864. Over the years the symbols and abbreviations have changed. If you encounter something different and you don't know what it means, please ask.



BURIAL - CROWN HILL CEMETERY CONTINUED



Blue star marks
approximate location
of Lawrence/Silver
family plot (15)

OBITUARY

- 19 DEC 1930
- TRI-COUNTY BANNER



Robert Silver, Manufacturer, Dies

Robert Silver, age 82 years, died Sunday night at 11 o'clock at his home here, as a result of paralysis. He was widely known and was a manufacturer. Mr. Silver had been the head of the Knightstown Body Company since 1900. He was a native of Preble county, Ohio. His wife died more than three years ago.

Deceased was among the first manufacturers in the country to build funeral car bodies and was known among the trade throughout the United States.

Surviving are two children, a son and daughter—Ralph Silver and Miss Jessie Silver, both of Knightstown.

Funeral services for Mr. Silver were held from his late home, West Morgan street, at 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. J. H. Palmer, pastor of the M. E. Church. Burial was at Crown Hill cemetery, Indianapolis, in charge of Hopkins and Gordon, funeral directors.

Newspapers.com - Tri-County Banner - 1930-12-19 -

Page 1

Robert Silver's Obituary 1930-12-19

OBITUARY

- 18 DEC 1930
- THE HANCOCK DEMOCRAT

Manufacturer, 82, Dies

Knightstown, Ind., Dec. 16.—Robert Silver, age 82, manufacturer, is dead at his home here. Mr. Silver was born in Preble county, Ohio, and at one time was in business in Indianapolis. He had been president of the Knightstown Body Company since 1900. A daughter, Miss Jessie Silver, and a son, Ralph Silver, both of Knightstown, survive. Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the home. Burial will be in Crown Hill cemetery, Indianapolis.

Newspapers.com - The Hancock Democrat - 1930-12-

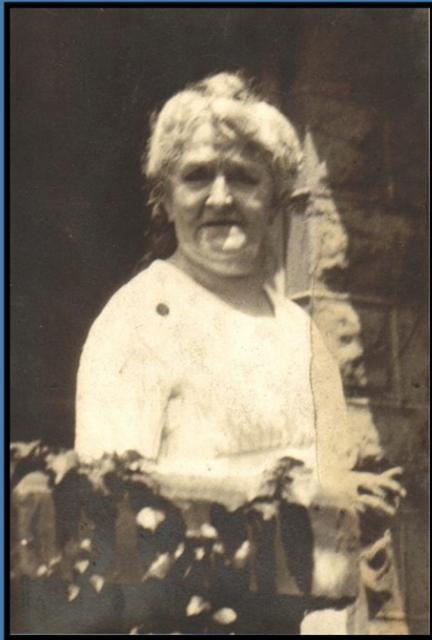
18 - Page 4

Robert Silver, Obituary 1930-12-18

LAURA LAWRENCE SILVER

OBITUARY

- 21 JAN 1927
- TRI-COUNTY BANNER



Death Of Mrs. Robert Silver
Mrs. Laura Silver, age 70 years, wife of Robert Silver, died at the family home, corner of Morgan and Franklin streets, at 5:30 o'clock yesterday (Thursday) morning. Mrs. Silver underwent an operation at an Indianapolis hospital a few weeks ago, from which she did not recover.

Deceased was a native of Darke county, Ohio, but moved to Indianapolis when a young girl. The Silver family came to Knightstown from Indianapolis 27 years ago and this has been their home since that time. Mrs. Silver was an excellent woman, most highly respected in the community, a good neighbor and friend. Besides the husband, she is survived by two children, Ralph and Miss Jessie Silver.

At time of writing arrangements had not been completed for funeral, but it will probably be held Saturday afternoon. Burial will be made at Crown Hill cemetery, Indianapolis.

DEATH RECORD

- 22 JAN 1927
- INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
- KNIGHTSTOWN, WAYNE COUNTY, IN

PLACE OF DEATH		Indiana State Board of Health CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
County of Wayne		917	
Township of Wayne		Fifield, Registered No.	
Town of Knightstown		(Name)	
City of .		St. (Street)	
IN death occurred from _____		Ward (Name)	
the first attack for under _____		(If death occurred in a Hospital, State the NAME and address of same)	
Disease _____		(If death occurred in a Hospital, State the NAME and address of same)	
FULL NAME		Laura S. Silver	
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
NAME	Date of Birth	DATE OF DEATH	Dec 15, 1927
Mrs. Silver	Married	Place of Death	(Month) (Year)
NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE		I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from	
Robert Silver		March 19, 1927, to June 20, 1927,	that I last saw him alive on June 20, 1927,
DATE OF BIRTH		and that death occurred on the date stated above, at 3:30 P.M.	
September 16, 1856		The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:	
AGE	70 years 4 months 4 days	Chronic Myocarditis	
OCCUPATION	79		
BIRTHPLACE	December 15, 1927		
NAME OF FATHER	Contributor: Knights, Inc.		
NAME OF MOTHER	(Signature) (Date)		
State the Indiana County Death, or in Deaths from a Cancer, state (1) Month of birth, and (2) Month of death.			
PLACE OF BURIAL OR BURIAL			
DATE OF BURIAL			
WAS THE BODY			
INTERRED			
CHARLES W. RAYLER			
Knightstown			
Indiana			

JESSIE A. SILVER - BIRTH RECORD

- 27 NOV 1882
- MONROE TOWNSHIP, PREBLE
COUNTY, OHIO

DEATH RECORD

- 22 JAN 1953
- INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
- MUNCIE, DELAWARE COUNTY, IN

JESSIE AND HER DAD



CERTIFIED COPY OF BIRTH RECORD

The State of Ohio, Preble County, Probate Court
Date of Record, A. D. 19_____
No. 20

Name in full Jessie A. Silver
Date of Birth Year 1882 Month Nov Day 27
Place of Birth State Ohio County Preble
City, Town or Township Honore Twp.
Sex Female
Color White
Name of Father Robert Silver
Mother's Maiden Name Lawrence
Residence of Parents Monroe Twp., Father
By whom reported and address

The State of Ohio, Preble County,
I, the undersigned, certify that I am Judge of the Probate Court within and for said County, which is a Court of Record; that I am ex-officio Clerk of said Court and by law have the custody of the records and papers required by law to be kept in said Court; that among others a Record of Births was heretofore required by law to be kept therein; and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript from said

WITNESS my signature and the seal of said Court,
at Eaton, Ohio, this 10th
day of January 1948.

Lloyd J. Bennett
Judge and Clerk of the Probate Court of and County
By: Frances J. Bennett Deputy Clerk

**INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Division of Vital Statistics
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

Land No. 524
Death No. 524

1. PLACE OF DEATH: Delaware Co., OHIO
2. CITY: Monroe
3. FULL NAME OF DECEASED: Jessie A. Silver
4. RELATIONSHIP: Daughter of deceased
5. ADDRESS: 39 Parkway Drive
6. CITY: Muncie
7. ZIP CODE: 47302
8. DATE OF DEATH: 01/22/53
9. PLACE OF BURIAL: Ohio
10. MANNER OF DEATH: Natural
11. CAUSE OF DEATH: Pulmonary embolism
12. FATHER'S NAME: Robert Silver
13. MOTHER'S MARRIED NAME: Laura Lawrence deceased
14. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 000-00-0000
15. MEDICAL CERTIFICATION: Pneumonia embolism
16. INVESTIGATION: No
17. INVESTIGATOR: No
18. ACCIDENT: No
19. PLACE OF DEATH: Muncie, Indiana
20. TIME: 10:00 AM
21. PLACE OF DEATH: Muncie, Indiana
22. DATE: 01/22/53
23. ATTENDING PHYSICIAN: Dr. Ralph L. Schmitz
24. FUNERAL DIRECTOR: Hoffelt & Schmitz
25. CEMETERY: Crown Hill Cemetery
26. ADDRESS: 1000 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Indiana
27. DATE SIGNED: 1/22/53

THE CROWN HILL CEMETERY INTERMENT ORDER

- INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
- DATE OF INTERMENT,
24 JAN 1953

**1 - 23 - 1953 THE CROWN HILL CEMETERY
INTERMENT ORDER**

Grave 12
Lot 76
Section 15
Mausoleum _____
Name Jessie A. Silver
Address Knightstown, Ind.
Name of Lot Owner Henry Lawrence
Relation of Deceased
Funeral Director Hoffelt & Schmitz
Date of Interment 1 - 24 - 1953
Day Sat Will Arrive 4:00 P.M.
Container Casket VT Size 4' x 8' x 5'
Charges, \$ 60.00
Bill to Paid
Age 70 Race W
Place of Birth Eldorado, Ohio
Date of Birth 11-26-1872
Place of Death Muncie, Ind.
Date of Death 1-22-1953
Brother
I hereby Certify that I am the
of the named deceased and this is your authority to make disposition of
the remains of said decedent as above indicated. I hereby certify and
represent that I have the right to make this authorization, and agree to
hold The Crown Hill Cemetery blameless from any liability on account
of said authorization and interment.
I hereby authorize the above interment:
Ralph L. Silver
Signature
Address Knightstown
Telephone 5-2975
30 x 84

JESSIE A. SILVER - CONT.

OBITUARY

- KNIGHTSTOWN BANNER
- 29 JAN 1953

Services Held For Miss Jessie Silver

Funeral services for Miss Jessie A. Silver, 70, Knightstown, were conducted Saturday afternoon at the Moffitt-Schweizer Funeral home in Knightstown with Miss Gladys Coburn of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, New Castle, officiating. Burial was in Crown Hill cemetery, Indianapolis.

Miss Silver was born Nov. 26, 1882, the daughter of Robert and Laura Lawrence Silver, who moved from Indianapolis to Knightstown about 1900 to open the Knights-town Body company. Miss Silver has resided in Knightstown the past 52 years, and she acted as office manager in her father's factory a number of years. At the time the Silvers came to Knights-town, they were making buggies, and later they made funeral coaches and other bodies.

Survivors include a brother, Ralph Silver, Knightstown; a niece, Mrs. Luther Pidgeon, Knightstown; and a nephew, Dr. Richard Silver, Muncie.

Pallbearers were Bruce Thomas, Thomas Buck, Lowell Hague, Earl McCormack, Kenneth Cooper, and D. W. Grossman.

MEMORIES OF JESSIE SILVER -

BY JOHN PIDGEON, GRAND
NEPHEW

Jessie Silver

My only memory of Aunt Jessie is a pleasant one. She would occasionally come to dinner when we lived in the big Victorian house on North McCullum St. She always brought a Br'r Rabbit storybook, and would read to me before dinner as I sat in her lap.



JESSIE A. SILVER - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Tri-County Banner
Knightstown, Indiana
27 Jul 1917, Page 5

Miss Jessie Silver left on Tuesday for Los Angeles, Calif. She will visit relatives there and in Oregon, and will also visit her brother, Ralph Silver, at Lewiston, Idaho.

Tri-County Banner
Knightstown, Indiana
2 Nov 1917, Page 5

Miss Jessie Silver returned home Wednesday morning from Lewiston, Idaho, where she was the guest of her brother, Ralph Silver, and wife. She enjoyed a most delightful visit.

Tri-County Banner
Knightstown, Indiana
10 Oct 1941, Page 1

Silver Family Reunion
The annual reunion of the Silver family was held Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver on North McCullum street.
At the noon hour a delicious dinner was served at home of Mr. and Mrs. Addison, north of town, to the following relatives: Mr. and Mrs. Robert McKinley and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Murphy and daughter Marilyn, Mrs. William McKinley, Mrs. Dolly Braeser, Mrs. William Murphy and Mrs. Hattie Braeser, of Cincinnati, Ohio; Mrs. McKinley and Dr. and Mrs. Charles McKinley and son, of Camden, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. Homer Shell, Indianapolis; Miss Jessie Silver and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver, of this city.

Tri-County Banner
Knightstown, Indiana
6 Apr 1928, Page 1

Robert Silver And Daughter Hurt
Robert Silver, well known citizen of this place, and connected with the Knightstown Body Company, sustained a fractured right shoulder and his daughter, Miss Jessie Silver, was severely bruised about 5 o'clock Sunday evening, just north of Maxwell, Hancock county, when the Nash sedan in which they were riding, turned over. The car was running at a fair speed on state road No. 9 when the accelerator stuck, and in an effort to loosen it the driver lost control of the car, and it turned over. The machine was damaged considerably. The injured were taken to the Community hospital, Greenfield, and their injuries were dressed by Dr. Ralph Arnold. Later Mr. Silver and daughter were brought to their home on West Pine street.

Tri-County Banner
Knightstown, Indiana
27 May 1927, Page 1

Return From Wyoming
Mrs. Ralph Silver and children, Marion and Richard, have arrived from their home in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Mr. Silver, who is now connected with the Knightstown Buggy Company, was in Chicago the latter part of the week to meet his family. They visited over Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Arnold, at Greenfield. This will be their future home. The family lived in Wyoming for the last few years, and Mr. Silver was engaged in civil engineering there, but returned to Knightstown several months ago to take an interest in the buggy company with his father and sister, Miss Jessie Silver. We gladly welcome these excellent people as citizens of our city.