

Spring Hill Preservation Alliance – May 2026 Newsletter

From Spring Hill Preservation Alliance <springhillpreservationalliance@gmail.com>

To Spring Hill Preservation Alliance <springhillpreservationalliance@gmail.com>

Date Wednesday, May 6th, 2026 at 10:10 AM

Garlic Mustard Weed Wrangle® volunteers fill twenty trash bags

Eight Spring Hill volunteers and one non-Spring Hill volunteer filled twenty trash bags with garlic mustard on Saturday, April 25, 2026, as part of the Spring Hill Preservation Alliance's ongoing efforts to eliminate the invasive species from our town. Thank you to Steve Buxser, Bill Grubb, Kathy Johnson, Larry Kleiman, Rose Kleiman, Ed Ramthun, John Segner, Maggie Witkowska and Brad Wood for their work in pulling the garlic mustard! (We understand that young Rosie of Dunaway Court also pulled a few garlic mustard plants while being wrangled by her mother Amy Conrad.) Thanks also to Gordon Chastain for the use of his golf cart and to the many Holcomb Estate residents that donated trash bin space for the garlic mustard!

Who lived here in the 1800s?

Before the founders of the Town of Spring Hill bought their properties and built their homes overlooking the White River, several families farmed the land. A quick look at maps and atlases from the 1800s provides their names, and digging a little deeper into newspaper articles and genealogical websites yields more information about them.

According to an 1855 map of Marion County, the majority of what is now Spring Hill was owned at that time by "W.B. Bridgeford." A review of other sources indicates this was William Bellamy Bridgford. He was born in Virginia in 1794. He married Mary Christian "Polly" Wakeland (b. 1797) in Ohio in 1819, and they had arrived in Washington Township by 1840. Polly Bridgford died in 1850, and William died in 1862. They – and at least some of their eleven children – are buried in the Bridgford Memorial Cemetery on the south side of Cold Spring Road just west of Michigan Road. The 1855 map also shows that H. Ferris owned land in the southwest corner of what is now Spring Hill, but we have not found any more information about Ferris.

According to an 1866 map of Marion County, George H. Carter owned the majority of what is now Spring Hill (what W.B. Bridgeford had owned in 1855), and W. Johnson

owned land in the southwest corner of what is now Spring Hill. A school is shown on the outside of the Gravel Road (now Cold Spring Road) curve (but this is an error – School No. 13 was located on the inside of the curve on what is now part of Holcomb Estate. (School districts 7, 9 and 13 were consolidated into Crooked Creek School in 1916.) According to the 1889 "Atlas of Indianapolis and Marion County," George H. Carter still owned the majority of what is now Spring Hill. B. & E. Snyder owned approximately fourteen acres of the west side of what is now Spring Hill.

George H. Carter (b. 1831 in Kentucky, d. 1902 in Indianapolis) was first married to Adaline "Addie" Rose (b. 1836 in Indiana, d. 1865 in California) and then married Minerva Alford Carter (b. 1842 in Indiana, d. 1913 in Indiana) in 1866. Carter had gone to California in search of gold in 1849 but ended up running a sawmill there. After moving back east to Indiana, he started a hardwood sawmill business in Indianapolis in 1873 and then formed a partnership with Silas A. Lee (their sons converted the mill into the Carter-Lee retail lumber and millwork business). Carter was also elected Marion County Sheriff in 1880. His obituary said *"He owned a fine farm on the Michigan road, five miles north of the city. This was the family homestead until two years ago, when he purchased a home at Zionsville...."*

Spring Hill water – springs and seeps

A 1922 Indianapolis Star article about the Augustus Coburns' home on "Cold Springs road" says *"A brick walk leads down this hill to a spring house, built to shelter one of the many clear springs, with which the whole length of the river bank abounds, hence the name "Cold Spring Road." This particular spring adds its natural bit to the scenery by tumbling over vine-covered rocks into two shady pools, which have been stocked with goldfish."* {Note: A photo accompanying the 1922 article shows a windmill on top of the Coburns' water tower – the tower still exists but the windmill has been removed.]

There are still springs in Spring Hill, e.g., the Kleimans' ponds are spring-fed. There also are seeps in the hillside – places where groundwater comes out – most notably above the ponds that the Holcombs constructed on the hillside ca. one hundred years ago.

Such seeps, according to the Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District *"are often found in soil types which otherwise typically would be well drained such as Miami soil, and sometimes are along the edge of two soil types and changes in elevation."*

"The cause of seeps is often the change in depth of glacial till, an impervious layer that remains extremely compacted due to the weight of the glaciers which once covered our part of the state. The glacial till varies in depth from location to location. Groundwater flows through the topsoil layer but when it hits the glacial till it can no longer drain through it and instead flows along the top of the glacial till until it pops out along the hillside. Seeps can pop out in various locations and will often continue to flow well into the drier times of the year." (See <https://marionswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/Hillside-Seep-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>)

Today, although the Coburns' "spring house" is no longer functional, and the Holcomb Estate developers connected the condominium to the Indianapolis Water Company system (now Citizens Energy), some Spring Hill homeowners outside of Holcomb Estate still use well water.

Are you considering donating to Spring Hill Preservation Alliance?

Donations to the Spring Hill Preservation Alliance support the Alliance's continuing efforts to uncover, protect, preserve, and share the natural and cultural heritage of Spring Hill. While we can do some things with volunteer labor, e.g., the Garlic Mustard Weed Wrangle®, other projects can only be accomplished with financial donations.

Reminder: Spring Hill Centennial Celebration – Saturday, August 22, 2026

The Spring Hill Town Council has set the date for the Spring Hill Centennial Celebration – Saturday, August 22, 2026. The Spring Hill Preservation Alliance and the Holcomb Estate Owners Association are working with the Town Council on preparations for the Celebration.

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**Spring Hill Preservation Alliance, Inc., is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
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Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.