

Shelbyville's ...

"Big Red House On The Hill"

... History and Mystery

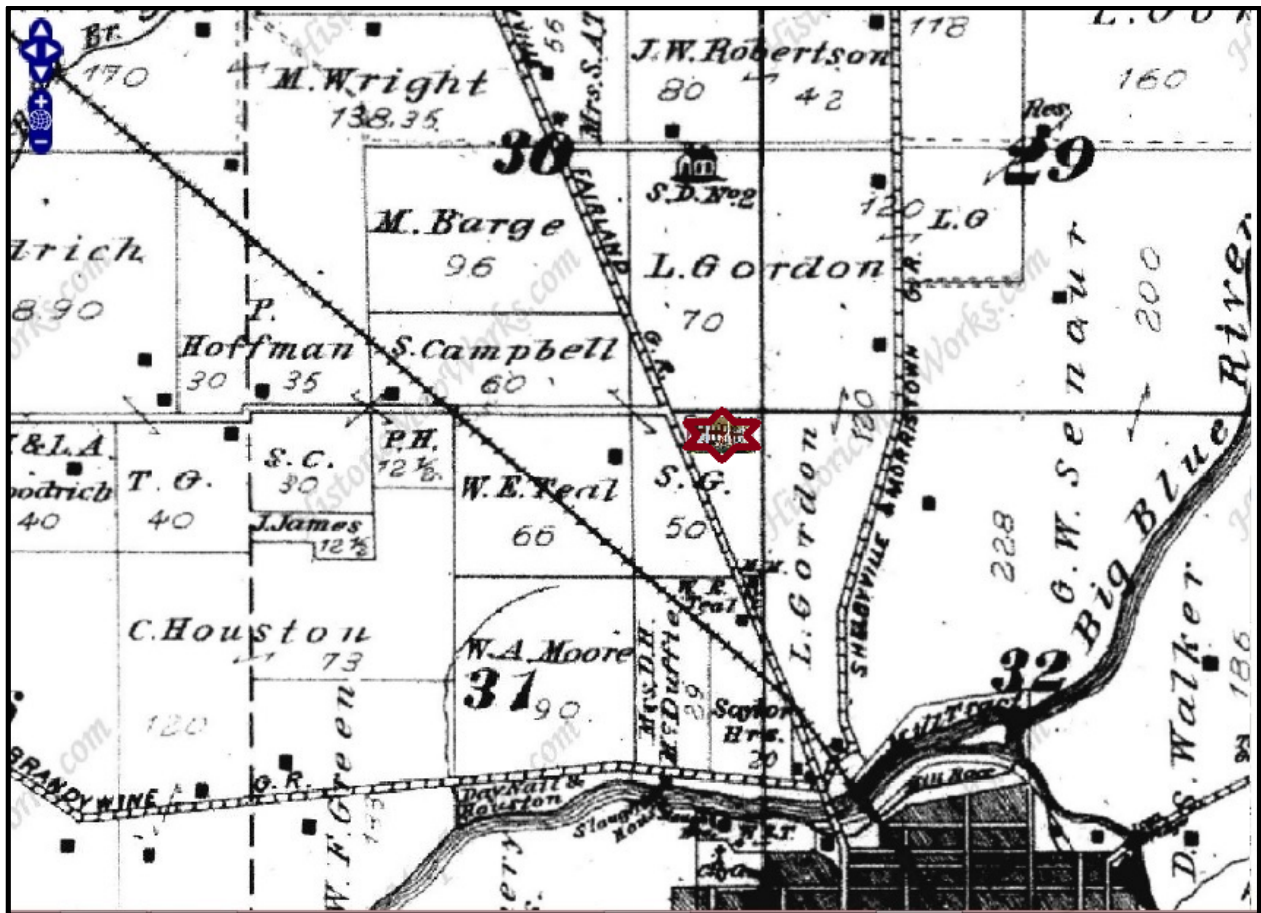


**By
Ron Povinelli**

According to a daughter of the Stine family, who grew up in our home in the 1950s, the big red brick home on the hill across from Temple Hill Mausoleum was built in 1845 or earlier (pre-Civil War) by the "Campbell family." She said that the red bricks were made right on the property. Mrs. Stine also said that a 12-year old Indian girl was killed on the property, and she still lives there as a "friendly" ghost.

I have been unable to verify the original builder of the red brick home at 1394 N. Michigan Road, Shelbyville, Indiana 46176; however, I can confirm that there is a cemetery at the back of the property called, "Campbell Cemetery."

It is my best guess that Joseph "Josés" Harrison Campbell (1775-1842), son of Thomas Campbell, purchased the land-only property between 1826-1835 from the Rev. S.G. Huntington, who might have originally purchased the property where the home resides in 1821, based on the map (BELOW) from Shelby County, Indiana, Historical Articles of the Earliest Settlers.



I have viewed the original Shelby County, Indiana, Land Records for Township 13 North of Range 7 East. Original purchases from the United States Government show that Shelby County settler "Joses Campbell" purchased land, which included the property in 1835; however, his wife was buried on the back property in 1833. He also had purchased land directly north of the property previously in 1826, so it is possible that this property was actually purchased by Mr. Campbell in 1826 not 1835.

I am not able to confirm who actually built the red brick home, but my best guess is that Joseph "Joses" Harrison Campbell, built the home sometime between 1826 and 1845, after he purchased the property from Rev. S.G. Huntington.

The sons of Joseph "Joses" Harrison Campbell and Nancy (Clark) Campbell also may have occupied the home at some point. One son was Joseph "Joses" Campbell Jr., (born 1818) who was named one of five Councilman during Shelbyville's "incorporation" in 1850 under first mayor George Caruthers Sr. The oldest son was "Uncle Seal" Campbell (1807-1882), and middle son George (born 1809).

Because there are many Dobbins family graves in "Campbell Cemetery," it is my belief that the Campbell's granddaughter, Mary Ann Campbell (1848-1929), who was the daughter of Seal, occupied the home with her husband Richard Dobbins, unless the cemetery was simply used by the Campbell family and their relatives who might have lived nearby. (Please note: It is unknown how many graves are "officially" back there since many of the headstones may be buried or missing.)

1821	Land purchased by S.G. Huntington
1826-1835	Land purchased by "Joses" Campbell
1826-1845	Home built
Unknown	Purchased by C.F. Fix / Others?
Unknown	Land and home purchased by Bill & Cila Henry
1953	Land and home purchased by Frank H. & Helena E. (Reinhardt) Stine
1987	Land and home purchased by Randall Dean Rush & Janet Rush
2015	Land and home purchased by Ronald Ray Povinelli

Who owned the home directly after the Campbell family is unknown. I had poor luck researching at the Shelby County annex building about the home or even the cemetery in the back. I was told to look for Section 11, Township 13 and Range 7 in my property search.

It has been stated that Lovell Wright leased the home and property from funeral director C.F. Fix (1877-1951), following a farming accident in the spring of 1923, as written by Kristiaan Rawlings, and researched by Charlene Huff at the Shelby County Public Library Genealogy.

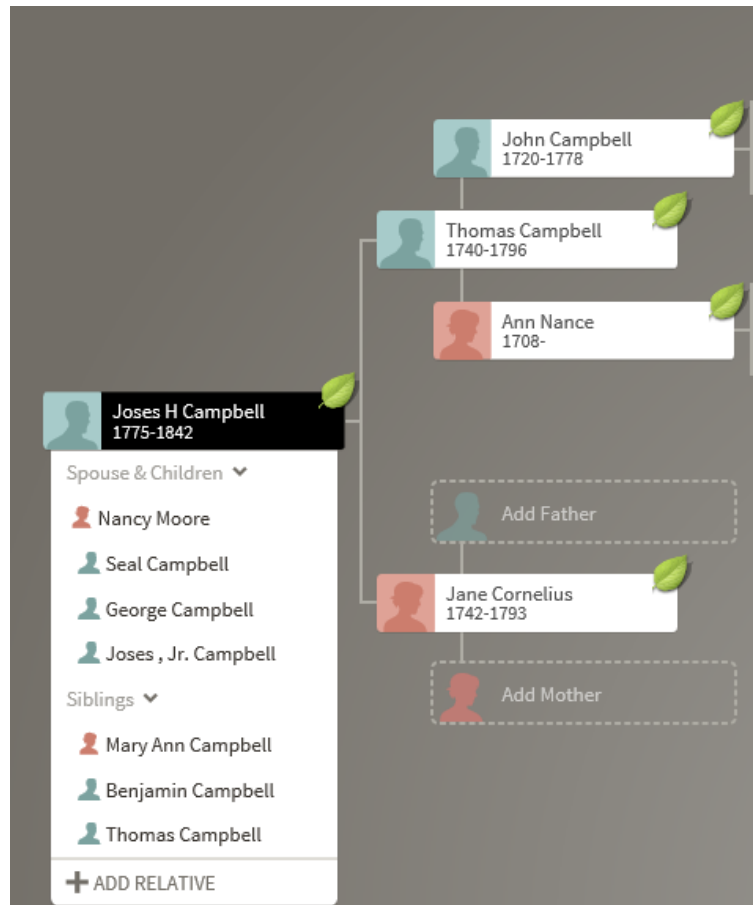
Bill and Cila Henry purchased the home at some point after that, and then they sold the home to the Stine family in 1953. (I am told that the Henrys owned "Up Town Tavern" in Shelbyville.) I have tried to research them, but I have never been able to find anything about these people.

Frank & Helena Stine sold the home to Randall Dean Rush & first-wife Janet Rush in 1987.

History of the families

- **Rev. S.G. Huntington family:** Rev. S.G. Huntington, of Rushville, was a well-known Baptist minister of southern Indiana, who conducted the first full-time services of Waldron Baptist Church in 1911. He was married to Kathleen (McKee) Huntington.

- **Joses Campbell family:** Early Shelby County settler Joseph "Joses" Harrison Campbell was born Dec. 24, 1775 in Richmond, Wise, Virginia and died Aug. 8, 1842 in Madison, Kentucky. He was the son of Thomas Campbell (1740-1796) and Jane (Cornelius) Campbell (1742-1793). He was married to Nancy (Moore) Campbell, who was born in 1777 and died Sept. 8, 1833. She was buried in the cemetery behind the



home in 1833, which appears to be the first grave occupant on record for "Campbell Cemetery." Their son, Joseph (Joses) Campbell Jr., was named one of five Councilman during Shelbyville's "incorporation" in 1850, under first mayor George Caruthers Sr. The other son of Joseph & Nancy was Seal Campbell (1807-1882), who was later nick-named "Uncle Seal" Campbell. Seal Campbell was born Jan. 28, 1807 in Kentucky, and died Nov. 14, 1882 in Addison Township of Shelbyville, Indiana. Seal Campbell married Nancy

(Clark) Campbell (1825-1888). The daughter of Seal and Nancy was Mary Ann Campbell who was born in April 3, 1848 and died July 18, 1929. Mary Ann Campbell married Richard Dobbins on Oct. 1, 1865. The Dobbins family later married into the families of early settlers Isaac Lemaster and John Lee.

- **Claude F. Fix family:** Claude F. Fix was born in Shelby County on July 15, 1877. His parents were Stephen A. Fix and Melinda (Doran) Fix. He married Rhoda Baynon and they had one son together Feb. 8, 1902 named Rufus. Claude F. Fix then married Anna Margaret Mohr on July 15, 1925. The father of Claude F. Fix, Stephen A. Fix, was a progressive agriculturist of Shelby County. He farmed 560 acres of land as a well-known farmer. Claude finished school and worked with Strickler & Fix agricultural supply dealers at Boggstown for four years. Claude F. Fix then entered the school of Doctor Barnes in Indianapolis to study scientific embalming and graduated in 1907. He was elected Trustee of Sugar Creek Township for four years. He then bought half interest in the undertaking business of Robert T. Stewart. In 1921, Mr. Stewart retired and Mr. Fix assumed control of the business, in which his son, Rufus W. Fix, then became a partner, the firm being known as Claude F. Fix & son. He died on June 7, 1951, in Shelby, Indiana, at the age of 74.
- **Bill & Cila Henry family:** All information unknown
- **Frank & Helena Stine family:** Frank H. Stine was born on Oct. 29, 1914 and died on Aug. 24, 2000. He married Helena E. (Reinhardt) Stine on May 23, 1937, and they moved to Shelbyville in 1942. Frank was involved in operating and building numerous business, including Blue River Lanes, Stine Grocery and nursing homes. Frank H. Stine was the son of Rev. Bernard C. and Emma E. (Poole) Stine. Helena E. (Reinhardt) Stine was born Jun. 29, 1914 and died Dec. 4, 2006. She was the daughter of Ruben and Maud Reinhardt. Helena taught kindergarten and was the Shelby County attendance teacher for 25 years. Together, Frank & Helena Stine had two daughters, Nancy (Stine) Walts of Marion, and Susan (Stine) Petty of Shelbyville.

- **Randall Rush family:** Randy Dean Rush was born Oct. 18, 1952 and died Dec. 3, 2006 of a sudden heart attack. Randy Rush was the son of William Paul and Berniece Irene (Allison) Rush. Randy Rush was first married to Janet Rush, and they had a son Dean Rush, who still lives in Shelbyville. Later, Randy married Susan (Jackson) Rush on June 15, 2001. Susan lived in the home for 6 years after Randy died.