

## A Tale of a Noble Experiment

1865 – What a Great Spot

Once upon a time in an enchanted spot by the sea (well, Knightstown Springs, actually there sparkled a spring of purest water. Summertime found glimmering white tents around the water's edge; where gentlemen strolled around in their finery as their ladies, daintily lifting modest bathing attire, dipped their toes into the spring waters. As they removed themselves from the water, I tell no lie, the ladies felt themselves wholly refreshed and possessed of more robust health! So successful were such fanciful notions that one Mr. Aaron Aldrich built a hotel on the hill west of the springs, where he provided the latest of conveniences for these health seekers. His fortune was made-for a time.

Along came an angel by the name of Oliver Perry Morton, who held the conviction that such a healthful location could serve “a higher and nobler purpose.” Well, can you believe the luck? Mr. Morton, known by the lofty title of Governor of the State of Indiana, gathered some fifty gentlemen together and decided to replace the high falutin' ladies and gentlemen and, in their place install wounded veterans of the Civil War. The earliest authentic mention of the accomplishment of this noble cause was a report of its Board of Directors dated September 1, 1866. It declared the Soldiers' and Seamen's Home to be a reality. Believe it or not, the proof of this still exists.

Thus began our saga.

Tune in later for more thrilling episodes.

Pat Smith Towne '54  
Spring, 2010