

# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

September 2022

A Publication of the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming History Museum

**THURSDAY, September 22, 2022**

## INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY

Long before the present “cowboys” graced the streets of Wyoming, groups of indigenous peoples made the hills and valleys of Hamilton County their home. Join OSU anthropologist Benjamin Cross as he discusses the pre-contact populations of the Ohio River Valley, including the Adena, who lived in present day Wyoming from 1000 BC to 700 AD.

**PROGRAMS ARE AT  
7 PM  
Wyoming Civic Center**

**FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS**

**SATURDAY, October 1, 2022**

## FALL FESTIVAL

See you at Fall Festival. We will be at our “usual” location near the corner of Wyoming Ave and Oak.

Wyoming Historical Society  
800 Oak Avenue  
Wyoming OH 45215  
513.842.1383

[History@Wyomingohio.gov](mailto:History@Wyomingohio.gov)

Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00  
or by appointment.



**Wyoming History Museum**

A Unique and rewarding  
place to visit.

Member of:  
Ohio Association of Historical  
Societies and Museums,  
American Association for State  
and Local History,  
Ohio History Connection

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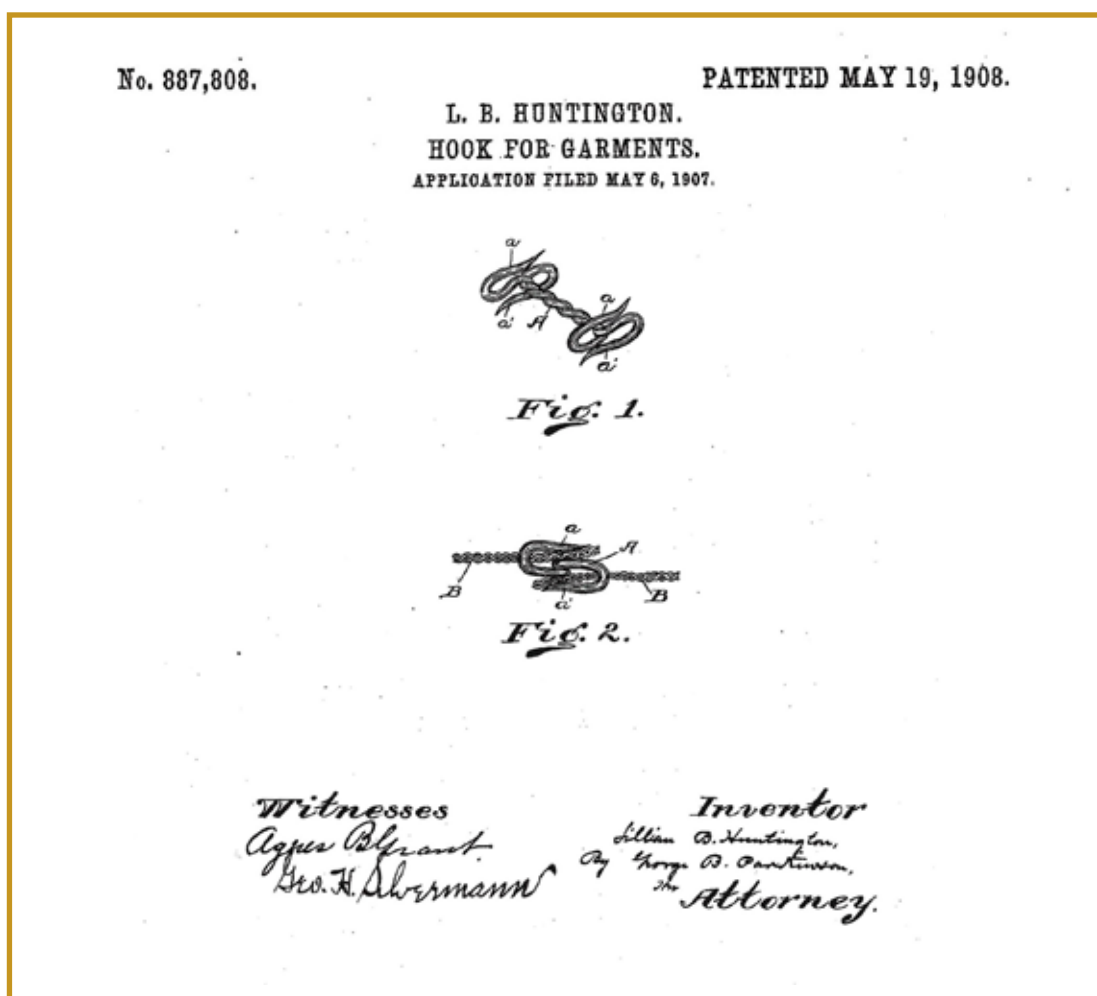
## IMAGINEERING...

Many people that live or lived in Wyoming have 'invented' something. Whether its a formula for a soap, a cooking spray or a piece of art. We continue to highlight some of those people who helped make our life better in their special way.

### Lillian B. Huntington...

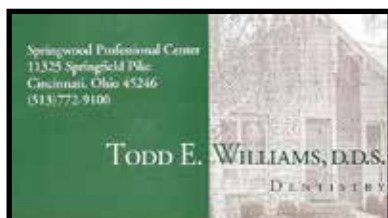
Although her time in Wyoming was short (1905-1907), Lillian Baker Huntington managed to acquire her first and only patent while here. Beyond her patent, we don't know much about Lillian, besides the fact that she was the wife of a railroad ticketing agent and the mother of two children. While in Wyoming, her children were 12 and 9 years old. Perhaps she was in the habit of making their clothing because her "hook for garments" was "designed to temporarily serve the purpose of a button or hook and eye" (US Patent #887,808).

The Huntington family moved to Buffalo, New York in 1907 when Mr. Huntington was promoted. Mrs. Huntington is currently the earliest female patent holder among the Wyoming Historical Society's records for our hometown inventors.



If you know of someone who deserves recognition for their 'Imagineering' please let us know!

## BUSINESS MEMBERS



## POP-A-DOG

Pop-a-Dog is a mobile hotdog business based in Wyoming, ready to serve anywhere anytime. Owned and operated by Wyoming residents John and Terri Pinkston, Pop-a-Dog debuted in 2016. Since then the business has grown to include serving at many local city and school events as well as private parties and corporate events. We are slowly and cautiously beginning to serve our public once again. Locations and times are posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Remember it's always a great day for a hotdog! See you October 1st at Fall Festival.

## SEARS ALL OVER WYOMING...

We have all ordered from a catalog but have you ever tried to order a house from one?

From 1908 until 1940, you could do just that from a Sears and Roebuck Company catalogue. These catalogue and kit houses came in 370 designs from which to choose in every many styles and sizes. They went by names like Avalon, Hamilton, Josephine, Elsmore and Starlight.

Over 50 of these Sears Houses, which arrived by train, have been identified in Wyoming and there is no doubt even more than that line our streets. Did you know that Sears also sold four-family homes and Wyoming has at least five of that style?

For a sampling of a Sears kit house, check out 436 Burns Ave, 51 Euclid Ave, 228 Crescent Ave and 438 Compton Road.

## ON THIS DAY.....

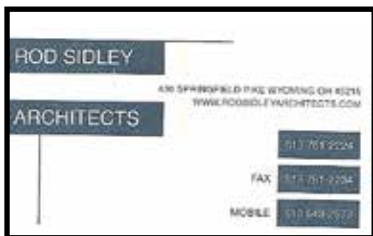
This is the twelfth month that we have been posting "On This Day" facts on our Facebook page. Our thanks to Todd Williams who put the original calendar of facts together. And, to Jim Walton who did the graphic work.

If you have not turned in to view these interesting facts check us out on Facebook.

## MEMBERSHIP...

Our membership year is January-December with our membership drive happening late each fall. However, we gladly welcome new members at anytime of the year. For a year dues are: Students \$10, Individuals \$25, Households \$50, Business \$75 and Life Time membership for \$1,000.. New members joining after August will be credited through December of the following year. New members please send your check, name, address, phone and email to us and we will handle the rest. 800 Oak Avenue, Wyoming, OH 45215. Thank you.

## BUSINESS MEMBERS



## VOLUNTEERS...

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at our headquarters, in our museum and with our online presence. If you are interested in helping out, please call and leave a message at 513-842-1383.

### GLOWS FROM WITHIN...

According to John Luken the shop's proprietor, his grandfather Herman and his brother Clem moved their blacksmith shop to its current location on Compton Road in 1921. The Lukens actually purchased it from a fellow blacksmith who brought it secondhand in 1913.

John's father, Rick, passed away a few years ago and was a life-long Wyoming resident. As a boy he had helped his father Herman. It was his job at the end of each month to ride his pony and deliver his father's bills throughout the Mill Creek valley.

Once when he was delivering bills his mount broke its bridle bit. Rick had to put his hand in the animal's mouth to guide it home. Either Rick was very brave or very stupid! But, he was learning.

Another encounter with fate happened when young Rick was told to go up to Glendale and bring back a couple of colts for shoeing. He said, "I had a heck of a time. Each wanted to go his own way." Rick is gone but not forgotten. His friends always enjoyed his stories.

Most of the shop's work is in welding now, rather than forging or shoeing horses. Since 1926, the Luken family made Wyoming street signs with their distinctive iron scroll work. They also fashioned the attractive green flower boxes that grace our community.

When you eventually discover Luken's Blacksmith Shop and peer inside, you will not see "a thing of beauty and a joy forever." Oh no! Instead you will behold an historic landmark filled with stories about people.

Source: Lynne White, Wyoming Living, 2002, Edited by Glenn Lewis



## 2022 Wyoming Historical Society

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## HISTORY IS NOW.....

It is often hard to realize that what is happening today will be history tomorrow. At the Historical Society, we have to keep reminding ourselves that 25 or 30 years from now someone might be asking for the historical background of something that is going on today. So we also try to 'save' information on our current world. Below is an article that really fits that situation.

### DON'T DUMP ON OUR STREETS....Jim O'Reilly

What numbers mattered in Wyoming's recent history? 446, 10-B, 8<sup>th</sup> of 8, & Alternative 5. The numbers don't speak for themselves about Wyoming history, but Wyoming gained another success on August 25, 2022, and it is a fine opportunity to look back and smile.

When the Ohio Department of Transportation made public its plan to shut Exit 10-B, the northbound Galbraith Road exit on the left side of I-75, as part of the "Through the Valley" reconstruction plans, word got around quickly. We city leaders made a request for Ohio Department of Transportation to come to a public hearing at the Wyoming Civic Center. We gathered detailed information and urged residents to come out and be heard. They came out and 446 people signed in, a remarkable testament to residents' anger.

Wyoming people who came to be heard at our meeting made clear the desire to save the exit. This contrasted sharply to Hartwell's public meeting on the following evening, which had only 9 people there to object to closing the Galbraith ramp. The situation looked dire for Wyoming, unless something miraculous could be made to happen. That's when the Exit 10-B Cake won the day. The U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation was coming to speak at a convention downtown. The Washington-based visitor was invited to drive the exit to see its safe design. On the lawn of our City Hall, a table with a large white sheet cake was decorated with signs, arrows, line markings and the sign, "To Wyoming, next left". The news cameras recorded the scene as the delicious Galbraith cake was cut by the city leaders and the political leaders. It was a hit, and soon thereafter, the official transportation decision included an exception for our left side 10B exit. MMM, it was delicious!

Wyoming faced another transportation problem in 2018. The underlayers beneath Springfield Pike had deteriorated, and it was apparent that truck damage and underlayer weaknesses meant that Wyoming would endure long and unsatisfactory repeated patches of the Pike. At the OKI regional council of governments, federal road reconstruction were very competitive and 30 local areas competed for federal highway funding. A team effort made Wyoming's pitch, and when final decisions were announced, Wyoming was 8<sup>th</sup> of 8 recipients granted federal funds, and our \$ 6,200,000 of federal highway funds helped rebuild the Pike.

The final chapter came to a happy ending in August 2022. The Ohio DOT "Through the Valley" I-75 reconstruction was about to have a big impact on East Mills and Burns, allowing heavy trucks to exit southbound I-75 at a new exit at Millsdale. Large trucks could flee a traffic jam on I-75 south, and drive west into Wyoming at East Mills and Springfield Pike, then proceed to turn south on the Pike. Wyoming had recently been spent on \$116,000 on the East Mills roadbed and no funds were available for installation of a traffic signal at Mills on the Pike. Joe Hornsby and other residents capably made the case in Ohio DOT public hearings that the best choice among options for exit design was Alternative 5.



So in late August 2022, the Ohio DOT announced its selection: Alternative 5. That alternative that should remain in place through the 2026 construction of the new exit. Wyoming is a classroom example of an alert citizenry using our best means to get the message across to government: Gather facts, enlist vocal residents, speak loudly and clearly!

## DIDN'T WE HAVE FUN.... edited by Glenn Lewis

Put 500 youngsters ages 5 to 12 in a dark movie house for two and a half hours. Add about 500 sacks of popcorn. Flash onto the silver screen a shootem'-up Western, a Walt Disney cartoon or a slapstick comedy... It sounds like a recipe for bedlam but it's not so.

"Amazing, but we don't have a bit of trouble" said Mrs. Ruth Chase, Manager of the Vogue Theater in Hartwell. "No water pistols and no exploding paper bags. They come to see the movie. It's their afternoon. Of course, we keep an eye on them. That's one of the reasons their parents are willing to let them come here by themselves."

"No other audience in the world identifies itself with the action unfolding on the screen the way the sub-teen set does. They really get wrapped up with the exploits of Old Yeller.



The Vogue theater sat on Vine Street in Hartwell where the Long Furniture parking lot is now.

They boo when the villain comes in and yell with joy for the hero," she continued. "We start at 2 PM and et out around 4:30. We show only one feature and a few cartoons to go with it. More than two and a half hours and the little ones get restless. The boys like western or space pictures. The girls prefer a musical movie or a show like Margaret O'Brian used to start in." She paused and then added. "When the audience is full of youngsters, popcorn and candy sales soar."

Mrs. Chase, who keeps tabs on the youngster until he or she is met by the parent at the door, was told by one father, "You're the best darned baby sitter I ever saw."

This Vogue movie house mines gold and good will every Saturday by throwing the doors open to the small fry, at a quarter a head, and gives Mom and Dad an afternoon off.

Source: George Amick, Cincinnati Enquirer, Feb 9, 1958.



## THANKS TOMMY....

Our thanks to the family of Tom Schneider, fifty-plus year member of the Wyoming EMS. Tom passed away earlier this year and the family has graciously donated to your Historical Society badges, pins and clothing acquired by Tom over all those years.



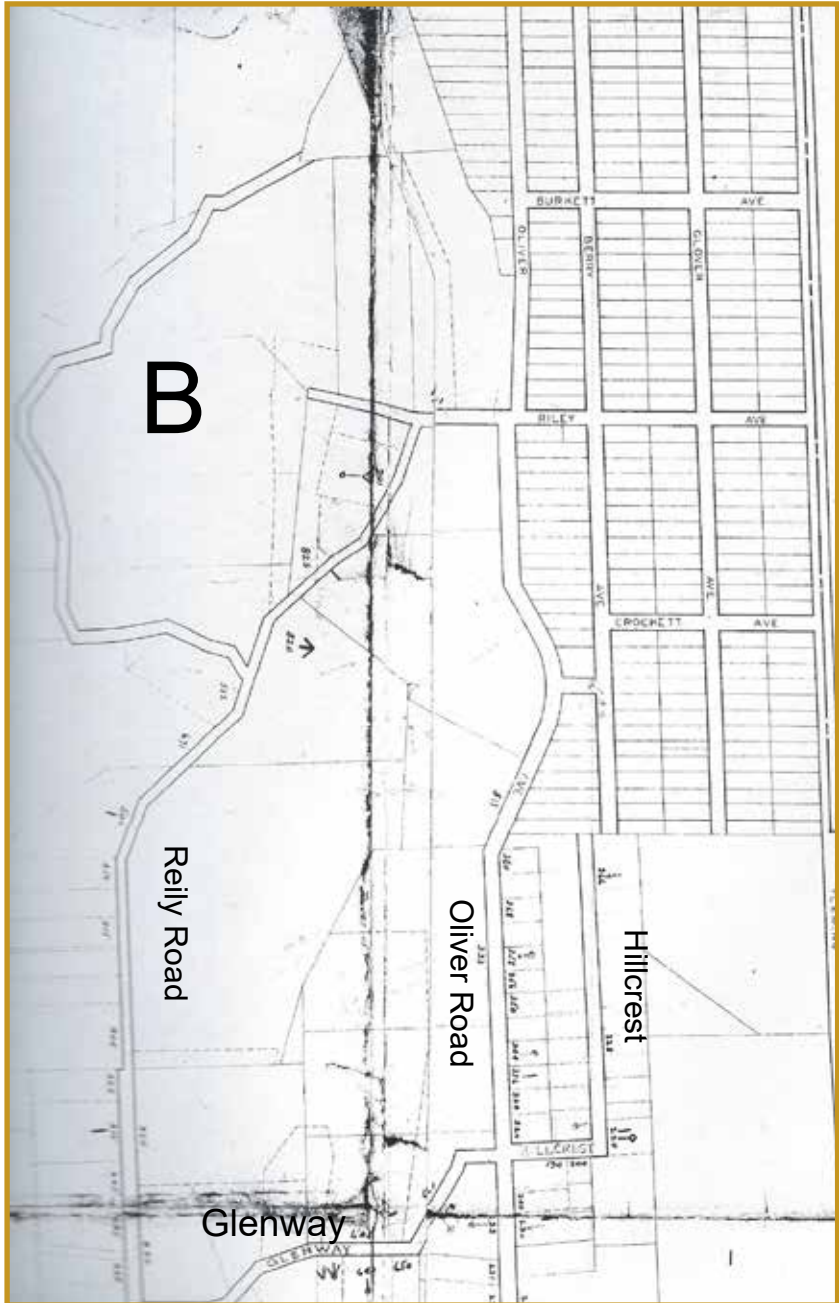
## THE MAP GAME...

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The Map Game is one interesting, confusing and frustrating game to play and we do that a lot at your Historical Society. If you were asked where the following streets were located in Wyoming what would you say: Burkett, Glover, Berry, Crockett?

Burkett et al were part of a proposed 1931 subdivision in the general area we now know as Laramie, Oregon and Cody Pass. This subdivision was up the hill between Oliver and Fleming. You can see where Reily (spelled Riley) comes in from the south. And there is Hillcrest but no Brayton. Why the subdivision wasn't built we have no idea but if you compare this map with a current one you see that we have far fewer houses than what was planned for this development

The area labeled "B" was, at one time, to be the Benckenstein Subdivision. Julius Benckenstein and his wife had a large Victorian home on the property which was demolished many years ago. There were two entrances off Reily. Lower Benckenstein now Hickory Hill and Upper Benckenstein, now Woodbrook.



N

Fleming Road

E

## NAME THE STREET...

Another part of the Map Game we play is where the names of our streets came from and what other names that street may have been called. One street that has an interesting name and spelling is Brocdorf. The name came from the combination of Brockman and Frondorf'. Herb Brockman and Bill Frondorf both owned parts of the land that became Brocdorf!

**The Wyoming Historical Society**  
**800 Oak Street**  
**Wyoming OH 45215**

*Look forward to seeing you on at our  
September 22nd program.*

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Jim Walton**

Dear Members,

The Historical Society currently has several volunteer openings to help us maintain, organize and curate items in our archives.

Museum Director- We need to share our collection of Wyoming history through changes in the displays in our museum along with museum open houses. You can be the one to share our exciting history with the world.

Communications Director- We have a number of people who visit our Facebook page and our web site and we need someone who can keep it fresh and updated so that our followers can find new and interesting history.

Volunteers- Have your Tuesdays free? We have a great place for you to spend 4-5 hours working with our archives. It's important that our files are orderly so information can be easily found. Volunteers can also write articles for our newsletter.

Stop by and visit and see what part you can play in your Wyoming Historical Society. See you at Fall Festival October 1st.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jim Walton, President

