

# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

November 2022

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

## LOST CINCINNATI.....

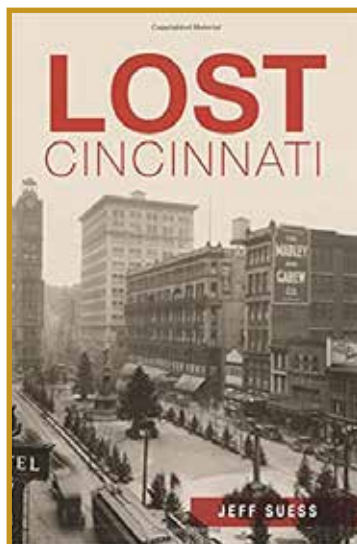
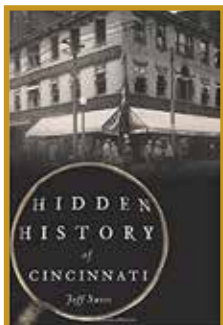
Cincinnati earned its nickname of “Queen City of the West” with a wealth of fine theaters and hotels, a burgeoning brewery district and the birth of professional baseball.

**November 10, Thursday  
7 PM  
Wyoming Civic Center**



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

Join author Jeff Suess as he delves into the mystery and legacy of Cincinnati’s lost landmarks and uncovers some uniquely Cincinnati quirks from the inclines and the canal to the infamous incomplete subway.



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Wyoming OH 45215  
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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

Wyoming Historical Society  
is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit  
corporation.

## DUES SEASON IS HERE.....

Dear Friends,

Thanks to your continued support, the Wyoming Historical Society weathered the COVID-19 storm with relatively few scratches. In fact, we're already ramping up for a full schedule of programs for the 2022-2023 year. Hopefully you had a chance to attend our first program for this year on September 22nd. Over eighty of us attended the fascinating lecture, "Indigenous Peoples of the Ohio River Valley" presented by anthropologist Benjamin Cross.

We've also taken the past two years to build up our inventory at the WHS museum. In particular, our library of books by Wyoming authors has grown tremendously. Also, our database for scientific patents by Wyoming residents is growing by the week! We also resumed the third grade history tours this past spring. These bus/walking/museum tours were very well received by the students, teachers, and chaperones. We also plan to resume the Wyoming Historical Society's scholarship program for a teacher-nominated student in the Wyoming High School history department.

Perhaps most importantly, we're on the cusp of Wyoming's 150 year anniversary of becoming an official village. The city will be organizing a celebration for this special occasion in 2024. Of course, our help and yours will be needed to make this happen.

You'll notice that our dues have been revised to reflect all of this revived activity. But we've also added several new levels of giving in an effort to fit everyone's needs. For example, high school and college students can join free of charge. And the new "household" giving level includes membership for all family members living at the given address. And by request, we now offer a "lifetime membership" giving level. This option will save you the time of renewing your membership each year.

As always, donations above and beyond the dues are greatly appreciated, but not expected. We also consider your time and talents as treasured gifts to this organization. We're always happy to have help at our office, museum, on the board, and at various other events and activities around town.

All memberships include our newsletters (printed or electronic, your choice). And early invitations to our programmed events. Our business members also enjoy advertising in the newsletters and at the events. Everyone also has access to the Wyoming Historical Society's archives and museum, just call for an appointment.

Memberships are initiated and renewed using the form on page 7 or online. Dues can be submitted via check or PayPal. Thank you for all your past support, which helped build this little organization into a mighty force of preservation, appreciation, and education for Wyoming's past, present and future!

Sincerely,

Amy Pursley, Membership Chair

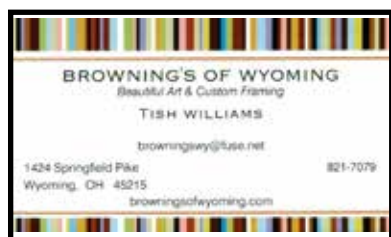
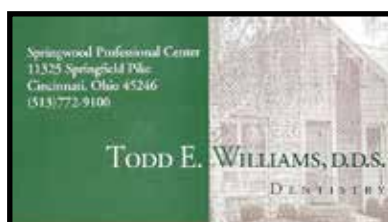
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### SAVING MONEY.....

Please consider paying next year's dues from this newsletter. That will save us time, energy and postage!!!!  
Thank you.



## BUSINESS MEMBERS



## TERRY'S MONTESSORI

Terry's Montessori School, Inc. has provided Montessori education in Wyoming since 1973. Terry's began as a full day Montessori home care program for children 2 through 6 years of age at 209 Wyoming Avenue. They now offer an infant and toddler program as well at several locations: 425 Crescent, 435 Crescent and 415 Poplar. Terry's was created to offer families a unique, homelike environment, within turn of the century homes. Over the years Terry's has provided a warm and caring setting in which a sound education and developmental program has flourished. This atmosphere was fashioned to cultivate a healthy self-image for each child in our school.

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

**Bette Matkowski**  
**Jane Walker**

## 2022 Wyoming Historical Society Board

### OFFICERS:

Jim Walton, President  
Open, Vice-President  
Jeff Blunt, Treasurer  
Mickey Jewett, Secretary

Sherry Sheffield  
Newsletter Editor &  
Office Manager

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Anne Black  
Sheri Callaghan  
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Mike O'Neill  
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David Savage

## -- MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- REMAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE 2022-2023 YEAR

**January 26, 2023** - LEED renovations in historic homes. Living in an older home doesn't have to mean high energy bills and inefficient systems. Wyoming resident Krutarth Jain, an architect with the Champlin group, will discuss LEED (leadership in energy and environmental design) renovations in historic homes.

**March 23, 2023** - Polly Campbell on the History of Cincinnati Cuisine: Cincinnatians are staunchly proud of our namesake chili, and fiercely loyal to our legacy food makers. Polly Campbell documented this love affair for nearly 25 years as the Enquirer's food critic, and has compiled her vast knowledge into a book. Join Ms. Campbell as she takes us on a tour of Cincinnati Food: A History of Queen City Cuisine.

## BUSINESS MEMBERS



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 Ranked #1 in sales - Sibcy-Cline Realtors!  
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## CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS.....

Wyoming has celebrated its Veterans in a number of ways. Here we highlight three different memorials to those brave men and women. Please let us know if you are aware of any other memorials in Wyoming or about Wyoming veterans.

## WYOMING'S ROAD OF REMEMBRANCE.....

BY SHERRY SHEFFIELD

When you go to Centennial Park look around the flag pole and you will find engraved plaques embedded there. These are the remaining plaques from the Wyoming portion of the Road of Remembrance honoring those who served in World War I. In the 1950's, I remember walking down Springfield Pike to school and seeing these plaques in front of many of the lovely trees that lined that street. How many there were to begin with we don't know but in the 1970's Mayor Tom Porter had all the remaining plaques collected and stored. Years later they were placed around that flag pole in Centennial Park.



Flagpole Centennial Park

The Road of Remembrance was the idea of a woman in Georgia who wanted the road to follow the Dixie Highway through several states. The idea caught on and cities across the country became part of the project. For a \$10 donation, you would receive an engraved plaque and a newly planted tree!

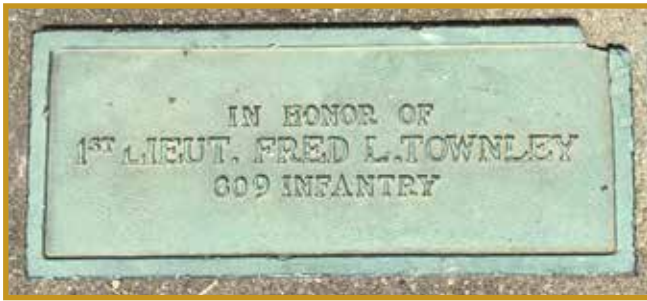
Of the 21 existing plaques only 4 have Wyoming connections, 12 others have Cincinnati connections and the remaining 5 have no known Ohio roots. It appears that a number of Wyoming people may have donated monies not designated for a particular person. The "committee" distributed the names of otherwise unselected individuals to Wyoming. Thus, the reason so many of those names started with "B"! They went alphabetically.



Fred Townley Sr.

The Wyoming related plaques belong to: 1st Lieutenant Hall A. Taylor, 146th Infantry, who lived at what is now 15 West Hill Lane, 2nd Lieutenant Lawrence Cowing, 144th Field Artillery, he lived at 314 Springfield Pike, Nurse Margaret Morris, AEF, she lived on Mt. Pleasant and 1st Lt. Frederick Lawrence Townley, 809th Pioneer Infantry, AEF, France.

Fred Townley and his wife Eugenia Taylor Townley, a 1897 Wyoming High School graduate, lived at 200 Worthington.



The Townley plaque at Centennial Park

Fred was an insurance agent for Fidelity and Casualty Insurance and dabbled in real estate and also, at some point, owned 212 and 218 Worthington. Fred's brother Lewis lived just around the corner on Beech. Fred's grandson, Frederick Lawrence "Larry" Townley III is a 1958 graduate of Wyoming High School. Most of the plaques were "In Memory of", Fred's plaque was one of the few that was "In Honor of" as he survived, passing away in 1972.

## WORLD WAR II PLAQUE....

Inside the main doors of the Middle School, in the Marble Hall, is a plaque "In Memory of the thirteen men from this school who made the supreme sacrifice on World War II". Those memorialized are: Fred S. Dewey, John R. Fox Jr., Jack Haines, George William Haller Jr., George H. Kern, William G. Kleeman, Albert Koegler, William Koegler, Elwood Moore, Richard Regus, Carl Geoffrey Stridsberg, Dan A. Wais, Elmer Wright.

Since 1946, Lt. Fred S. Dewey has had a memorial award, given annually, to a senior who best exemplifies athletic dedication, leadership, character and scholarship.

John R. Fox has a flag pole at the High School dedicated in his honor. Fox, a 1934 graduate is Wyoming's only known Medal of Honor recipient.

Albert Koegler, and his twin brother William, were Wyoming High School Class of 1943 graduates. They perished together when the USS Indianapolis was sunk on July 30, 1945. They were both awarded Purple Hearts. See page 8.



Marble Hall Plaque



George Benson Fox

## Major George Benson Fox (1843-1924)

George lived at 209 Worthington Avenue and served with the 75th Ohio Volunteers during the Civil War. George's family was involved in both the Friend & Fox Paper Co. and the Fox Starch company in Lockland. When Major returned from the war he was given a parade and presented with a handmade 36 star U.S. flag. That flag was sold by Cowan Auction House in 2016. We are working on locating it and learning its travels over all those years. We do know, at some point, the flag was in the possession of Adelia Brownell (1890-1974), considered Wyoming's first Historian.

## THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

## THE MORE THEY REMAIN THE SAME.....

The Wyoming Volunteer Fire Department was formed in early 1893 at the request of Mayor R. D. Barney, organized by Alfred Oskamp and staffed by 12 men. The early fire fighting equipment consisted of one hand drawn hose reel which was stored in a barn on Worthington Avenue. A whistle in the village was sounded to call out the volunteers.

The following year a hand drawn ladder wagon was acquired and housed in the Town Hall located at the corner of Worthington Avenue and Springfield Pike.

In 1897, Wyoming was still a quaint village with the population of 1,800. It had 10 fire alarm boxes and 44 fire hydrants. Unfortunately, the department had no pumping equipment to boost water pressure, so hose lines were laid directly from the hydrant to the fire scene.

In 1907, after the Town Hall was completely destroyed by fire, the salvaged fire equipment was housed in August Spreen's barn located at Springfield Pike and Wyoming Avenue.

In 1909, a new Municipal Building was erected at the corner of Grove and Wyoming Avenue. All fire equipment was housed here.

About 1910 or 1911, the hand drawn hose reels were inadequate for the Village. So horse drawn hose wagon and a horse drawn ladder wagon was added to the Department.

In 1917, a gas-powered fire truck replaced all the horse drawn equipment. And in 1924, the Department purchasing a combination hose and ladder truck equipped with a water pressure pump that could deliver 350 gallons per minute (G.P.M.) to any blaze.

During 1925, the Department received from the Village, 1,600 feet of new hose, 12 raincoats, caps and boots. A siren was installed at the fire house the following year. In 1927, the pay of fireman was increased to \$3.00 per fire, with the driver receiving \$5.00. A few years later, gas masks and fire extinguishers were purchased. In November of 1932, the first annual Turkey Disposal was held at the Firehouse.

An Ahrens Fox fire engine with a 600 G.P.M. pumper was purchased by the village in 1937. It was retired in 1953 and replaced with one having a 750 G.P.M. pumper.

In 1959, radios were purchased for fire fighters to use in their homes. Police dispatchers could now reach volunteers directly.

In 1960, the Wyoming Fire Fighters Association bought an old used potato chip truck and outfitted it with rescue equipment, painted it red, attached a siren and red lights and gave it to the City. Nine years later this truck was donated to the Lincoln Heights Fire Department. A newer truck was again converted into rescue service.



Early fire equipment marching in Wyoming's Centennial parade

In 1985, an aerial ladder truck was purchased by the City. It could reach to the top of most buildings in the Mill Creek Valley.

Finally, in 1991 a new salvage rescue truck was purchased. This one was complete with rescue equipment. It had a built-in electric generator, air compressor, a cascade system to refill personal air tanks. This mobile unit supplied electric to the Wyoming Medical Center for two hours due to a severe storm.

The Department is constantly studying new methods of fire fighting, including heavy rescue, smoke ventilation, salvage, propane gas fires, hazardous material spills, auto accident extrication, use of self-contained-breathing-apparatus (S.C.B.A.)

The Wyoming Fire Department was one of the first in Ohio to initiate a cadet program for young people between the ages of 15 to 18.

The Wyoming Fire Fighters have earned a well-deserved thanks from this community for keeping us as safe as possible.



Wyoming Fire Department in 1937

Source: Bob Unger, Fire Association Historian. Edited by Glenn Lewis

## WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES January-December 2023

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Individual \$25    \_\_\_ Family \$50    \_\_\_ Business \$75

\_\_\_ Lifetime \$500    Contribution \$\_\_\_\_\_

High School and College students are free.

If you provide an email address you will receive your newsletters and program reminders by email. If you prefer to receive your newsletter by USPS please check this box.

We are an approved 501-c-3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Make check payable to: Wyoming Historical Society and send to:  
Wyoming Historical Society, 800 Oak Avenue, Wyoming, OH 45215

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

Look forward to seeing you at our  
next program - November 10th

The Koegler Twins about 1944.



### ADDING TO THE ARCHIVES.....

Our thanks to:

Barry Porter for the photo of former Wyoming resident Hubert C. Blackwell. Blackwell was the President and Chairman of the Board of the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company. His two sons, Hugh and Gordon, were both graduates of Wyoming High School in the 1930s. The Blackwells lived at 209 Wyoming Avenue.

Jon Boss for several maps of early subdivisions in several Wyoming areas.

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

Our next program is November 10<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center and we hope you will find time in your busy schedules to join us that evening. Jeff Suess is a great presenter with so much interesting information on the long past of Cincinnati.

The November program is our "Annual Meeting".

We take about five minutes at the beginning of the night to introduce and vote on the new trustees. Our trustees are the backbone of the organization and all dues paying members can cast a vote. And speaking of dues....we have a new dues structure this year. Please check page 2 & 7 for all the details.

We look forward to seeing you on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

