

THE  
HISTORICAL  
RECORD

May 2024

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

CONGRATULATIONS  
WYOMING  
ON YOUR  
150TH ANNIVERSARY

Join the City of Wyoming and the Wyoming  
Historical Society in celebration

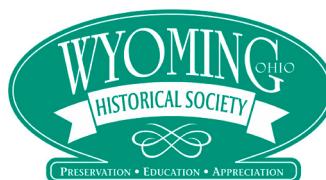
Village Green  
Friday, May 31st, 6-9 PM

(Details on page 4)

Wyoming Historical Society  
800 Oak Avenue  
Wyoming OH 45215  
513.842.1383

History@Wyomingohio.gov

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



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place to visit.

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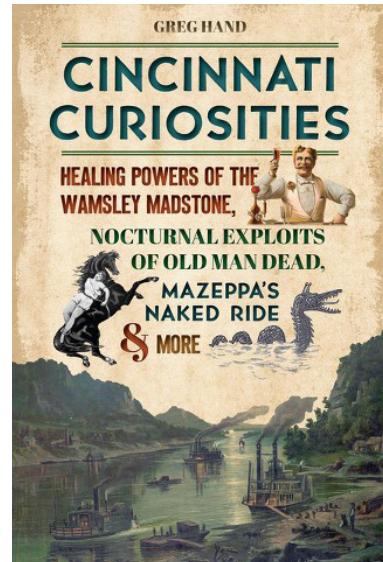
# GREG HAND AND HIS CINCINNATI CURIOSITIES...

## Thursday, June 13th

Cincinnatians today wrap themselves in a comforting blanket of serene conformity, soothed by the myth that the Queen City has always been a bland, somewhat Germanic, little backwater. History tells us otherwise. Old Cincinnati was a pretty strange place. UFOs? Witchcraft? Sea Monsters? Occult societies? Public executions? All very common in Old Cincinnati. Buckle up as author Greg Hand leads a rambunctious tour through the old, weird Cincinnati.

Before his retirement, Greg Hand provided 36 years of communication and public relations counsel to the University of Cincinnati, from which he graduated in 1974 with a degree in English literature. He is co-author, with WHS board member Kevin Grace, of three books about the university, and edited a book of essays for UC's 2019 Bicentennial celebration. Prior to employment at the university, Hand was editor of the Western Hills Press newspaper covering the western suburbs of Cincinnati.

In retirement, Hand created the Cincinnati Curiosity blog to "keep alive the weird soul of the Queen City." With partners Molly Wellman and Kent Meloy, Hand presents discussions on local lore in bars and breweries through a program called Stand-Up History. He is a freelance writer and contributes regularly to Cincinnati Magazine and to WCPO-TV's a Cincy Lifestyle.



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

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

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**-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR --  
PROGRAMS FOR  
THE 2024-2025 YEAR**

September 26  
November 14  
January 23  
February 20  
March 27  
April 24

Work is underway putting together great programs for the coming year. We will be learning about the Zoo with former Wyoming resident Thane Maynard and about Indian Wars from current Wyoming resident Rebecca Johnson. We start out on September 26th with Wyoming's own J. T. Townsend talking about murders that have happened in and around Wyoming. Did you know the cover of J. T.'s book, *Queen City Gothic*, is the reverse image of 217 Wyoming Avenue, the former Presbyterian Church of Wyoming manse? That house is now the headquarters of the Presbytery of Cincinnati.

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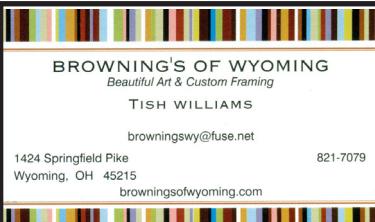
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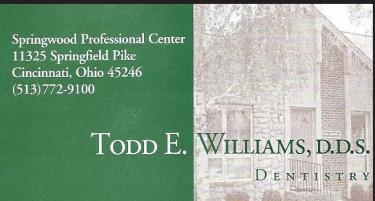
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John Sears  
Kitty & Todd Williams

## NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Kathy Moorman

## HAPPY 150TH WYOMING!!!!

## 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: Individual \$25, Family \$50, Business \$75, Lifetime \$500. High school and college students are free. 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



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## NEWS FROM THE REILY HOUSE...Cathy Ramstetter



When Twin Oaks was built in 1854, it was built with coal fireplaces. It was an expense and an innovation for this area. (Trees were abundant so wood was readily available.) The value of coal was that it heated more evenly and provided warmth longer. As coal doesn't spark or "pop" like wood can, nor does it burn with a high flame, the risk of fire was reduced significantly. This coal pictured came from the Reily House basement! I wonder how many other houses from the mid-to-late-1800's in our city had coal-burning fireplaces? Do they still have coal in their basements??

## 150th CELEBRATION PARTY...

Join us for the party on the green on Friday, May 31, 6-9 PM. There will be carriage rides (6-8 pm), Green Light Morning will perform at the Pavilion (6:30-8:30 pm), there will be delicious food and we will have a booth selling all our Wyoming-centric merchandise. Help us celebrate our 150 years. See you on the GREEN!



## IMAGINEERING...

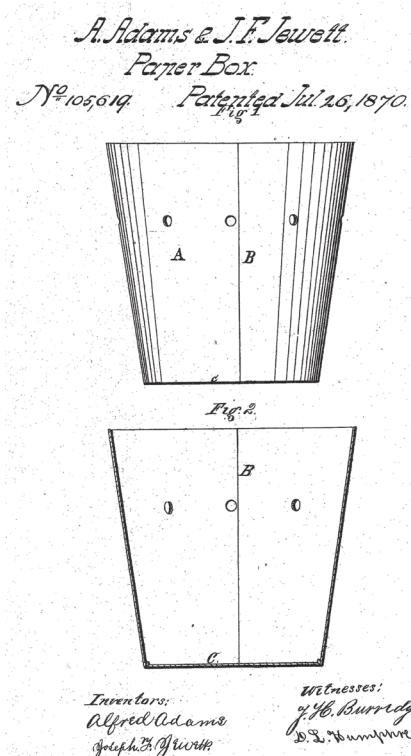
Many people that live or lived in Wyoming have ‘invented’ something. Whether its a formula for a soap, a cooking spray or a piece of art. We continue to highlight some of those people who helped make our life better in their special way.

### JOSEPH JEWETT, THE INVENTOR...

You may have heard of Joseph F. Jewett Sr., the man for whom Jewett Drive is named. He was a partner in the Jewett & Adams sack manufacturing company, a founding member of the Wyoming Board of Education, and an investor in the Wyoming Land and Building Company, which subdivided Burns Farm into the residential neighborhood it is today.

But did you know that Joseph F. Jewett was also an inventor? In 1870, only five years after purchasing 8+ acres of land on the west side of Springfield Pike, Mr. Jewett received a patent for an “Improvement in Paper Fruit-Baskets” (US patent number 105619). The improvement called for a paper bag to be coated in “dissolved shellac varnish” to produce a “light and stiff package” that “prevents absorption of the juice of the fruits.”

The Jewett family descendants lived on their Wyoming land for over 50 years before it was sold to a developer and turned into a residential subdivision.



### GRANT H. BURROWS, ANOTHER WYOMING CHARACTER....

Amy Pursley

Grant Howard Burrows (better known as G. H. Burrows) married his bride, Clorinda Jones, in her hometown of Charlotte, Vermont in 1862. Shortly after the marriage, G. H. brought his wife to Cincinnati. They appear as Wyoming residents in the 1880 census. After his business interests ran their course, G. H. and Clarinda moved back to Vermont. G. H. passed away in 1910, Clorinda in 1914.

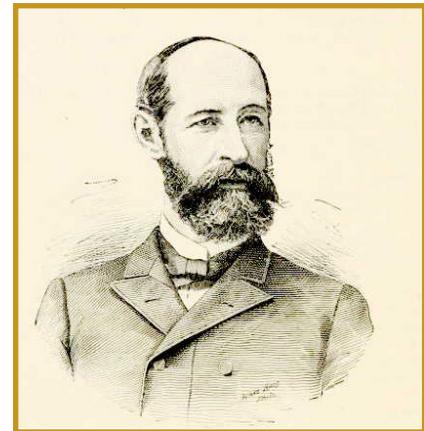
According to G. H. Burrows’ obituary in the Cincinnati Enquirer, “Mr. Burrows helped plan the village of Wyoming, and was one of the town’s pioneer residents. At one time, he was President of the McKinnon Dash Company, and for a while sustained a similar relation to the National Carriage Builders’ Association of America.”

In 1875, Park Place Subdivision was platted. In 1877, it was replatted with some minor changes. This was the formal dedication of Charlotte Avenue, Vermont Avenue, Vale Avenue, Maple Avenue, South Avenue (now known as Chestnut Avenue), and Park Avenue (now known as North Park Avenue). The owner of this subdivision is listed as The Park Place Land and Building Company. The president of this company was G. H. Burrows. Perhaps Mr. Burrows named Charlotte Avenue and Vermont Avenue after the town and state in which he married his wife.

Continued from page 5

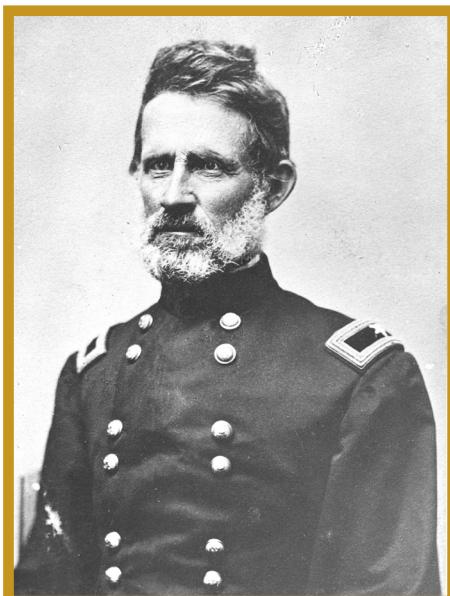
Another interesting item from the subdivision plat is the location of the Park Place train station shown at the eastern terminus of East Charlotte Avenue. According to the subdivision's marketing brochure, this depot was built by the Park Place Land and Building Company expressly to serve this little neighborhood.

"The Park Place Station and train depot was considered to be the most complete and picturesque along the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad. An eighty-foot Howe Truss Bridge spanned the Mill Creek, connecting the station with Park Place." (Guckenberger, Geo. Buzz, "Wyoming: A Retrospective", 2002, p. 40)



Grant Burrows

## JACOB AMMEN, ANOTHER WYOMING CHARACTER....Amy Pursley



Jacob Ammen was born in Virginia in 1808. He was raised in Brown County, Ohio. He attended the United States Military Academy and graduated in 1831. He continued his military career for six years, then transferred to the private sector by working as a college math professor. After 18 years in this line of work, Mr. Ammen pivoted careers once again and became a civil engineer. Six years after that, the Civil War broke out and Ammen reentered the army to serve as Captain of the 12th Ohio Volunteer Infantry with a training base at Camp Dennison. One month after reenlisting, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. One month later, he was promoted to a full Colonel. One year later, he was promoted to Brigadier General.

After the war, "General Ammen spent the next seven years in Wyoming as a civil engineer and surveyor with his second wife Martha and two sons William and Henry. It has been reported that during this time, Jacob Ammen was in charge of the draining and grading of the old lane between Lockland and Wyoming. For years

it had been not much more than a swampy dirt road, commonly referred to as Lockland Lane. After the project was complete it was renamed Wyoming Avenue." (Guckenberger, Geo. Buzz, "Wyoming: A Retrospective", 2002, p. 31-32)

According to an 1864 map of Springfield Township, The Ammens lived on the south side of what is now Reily Road. Their property would have encompassed the area of land now occupied by addresses 201 through 325 on Reily Road.

In 1872, the Ammens moved to Maryland where Jacob was appointed by the Secretary of the Navy to accompany the Isthmus of Panama Commission to examine the proposed canal route. As General Ammen aged, he became blinded by cataracts. He moved to Lockland, Ohio, to live with his son in 1891. He died in 1894 at the age of 88. He is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

## CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS...



For the last 25 years, Jo Sanders has been spending most every Tuesday helping out at your Wyoming Historical Society. She maintains house histories and obituaries and just about anything else we need her to do. Several weeks ago, we helped her celebrate her 90th birthday! Thank you, Jo. We look forward to the next 25 years.



Volunteer Jo Sander

## TOTES AND WYOMING.....Amy Pursley

"I consider myself a successful failure...Failure usually is the stepping stone to success...You must suffer a little in order to progress in anything,"  
—Joe J. Marx

After only one year of high school education and a handful of marketing classes at the University of Cincinnati's night school, Joe Marx set out to make a career in advertising. But the depression years brought about an opportunity that would tap into Joe's creative and business-minded spirit. Joe bought out one of his clients, the Perfect Manufacturing Company, in 1931. At the time, this company's primary product was "a rubber salve mixed in an old ice-cream freezer that was a cheap resole for well-worn depression shoes." He sold his marketing firm and dove head first into rubber manufacturing. In 1943, Marx renamed the firm to So-Lo Marx Rubber Company, a play on words of Sole and Low, as in affordable footwear.



In 1949, Marx's company launched a product called "Totes", rubber slip-covers for shoes to replace heavy rain boots. The product line stretched from "Tiny Totes" for toddlers' shoes to chest-high waders for fishers. Between 1945 and 1954, Marx obtained six patents for various types of "overshoes". After selling So-Lo in 1961, the company went on to become "Totes Incorporated", which is most famous for making collapsible umbrellas

But even in retirement, Marx's creativity couldn't be squelched. He became "one of the nation's leading experts with sub-miniature cameras." His 15-foot long mural of the Cincinnati skyline was on display at the Cincinnati Public Library for years. The scale of this work is amazing considering it was the result of four negatives, "each of which measured less than half an inch."

Joe and his wife, Evelyn (an accomplished fabric artist), lived at 419 Reily Road from 1938 until 1945 with their two daughters, Merry & Jan.



Our 150th mugs will be for sale at our booth on the Village Green on May 31st or....you can buy them at Gabby's, the Wyoming Pastry Shop, Wyoming Community Coffee or the Wyoming City Building.

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

See you at the Village Green  
on May 31st and  
the Civic Center on June 13th!

## OHIO TRIVIA...

A student at Hartwell Elementary School suggested “With God Everything is Possible” as the state’s motto and it was adopted in 1959.

Milford appointed the first female police chief in 1914.

In 1873, the Women’s Christian Temperance Union was founded in Hillsboro.

In addition to Orville and Wilbur Wright, Ohio claims Neil Armstrong, John Glenn and Eddie Rickenbacker as famous aviators from the state.

And, of course, we all know the state beverage is tomato juice!!!

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Jim Walton

Dear Members,

The mission of the Historical Society is to educate, promote and celebrate Wyoming’s wonderful heritage. The generosity and commitment of our members enables us to continue those efforts into 2024 and beyond. Please join us May 31st at the City’s 150th birthday celebration, as well as the upcoming programs on tap in 2024. We have a varied and interesting line-up this year. Enjoy your summer!



**HAPPY  
150th  
WYOMING**