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THE HISTORICAL RECORD

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Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00
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Your
Wyoming Historical Society
is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit
corporation.

BRIGID SIMMONS Junior Award Winner

We are delighted to announce
this year's Junior Award Winner,
Brigid Simmons.

Her list of accomplishments are
lengthy and varied. Brigid's
extracurricular athletic activities
include tennis, basketball and
Lacrosse. Work experience is at
Camp Ernst and Ferrari's Little
Italy Bakery. She volunteers
at Xavier's Bellarmine Chapel
where she did a mission trip
to Harlan, Kentucky. She has
also been involved with Youth
Services and is a member of
National Honor Society.

At undergraduate Honors Night,
Brigid was presented with a
check for \$500 to help off-set the
cost of college applications, two
Wyoming history books and, of
course, a Wyoming-Opoly game.



Congratulations Brigid

WYOMING HISTORY MUSEUM...

Remember, your Wyoming History Museum is open each Tuesday
from 10:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. What tidbit of Wyoming History might
you have that could become part of our museum and archives? We
are always looking for good 'stuff'!!!!



Wyoming History Museum
A Unique and rewarding
place to visit.

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WHITE WATER SHAKER TOUR...

A large group spent a Saturday afternoon in May visiting White Water Shaker Village in Harrison with Historical Society Board Member David Lentz, in the red cap, who is Executive Director of the UC Center for Field Studies. They toured the South Shaker Family Farm including Shaker barns and several living and working structures! A very informative afternoon.



IN MEMORIAM PLAQUES AT CENTENNIAL PARK...



We are trying to learn more about the bronze plaques resting now around the flag pole in Centennial Park. They were originally placed in front of trees on Springfield Pike. In the 1970's, Mayor Porter had those that had survived removed and stored until they were placed at the Park. Do you know anything about the early history of the plaques, who sponsored them, when they were made, or who some of these people are? Many names have no known association to Wyoming but did serve in WWI.

NEW TO THE ARCHIVES...



Glenn Lewis with 3rd grade students.

Nancy McCue- Memorabilia from the WHS Class of 1952
John Davis- Memorabilia from the Wyoming Institute of Musical Art
Ken Saunders-Framed 1948 Wyoming Map & WHS Yearbooks
Carol Morgan Dignledy- Memporabilia from the WHS Class of 1969
David Melville- WHS athletic letters, photos and memorabilia from Class of 1957.
Joyce Mueller- Painting of the 2nd Civic Enter, The Wyoming Club

THIRD GRADE TOURS...

Once again this year all three Elementary School 3rd grades spent time at your Historical Society during there "Tour of everything Wyoming". While visiting our museum, on one leg of their tour, the students learn about the early history of the land and the cultures that inhabited it from volunteer Glenn Lewis. Glenn's personal collection of Indian artifacts is the center of this talk. However, if your interest is mastodons, the Ice Age or how the canal works, Glenn is the one to explain that also.

Editor's Note: William Henry Venable educator and author of a number of books came to our attention through papers of his daughter, Gertrude Elizabeth "Betty" Venable, who married Harold Liddle (Liddle Lane, Wyoming). He also taught at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati. The following article was among the papers we received from the John Diehl Family.

The book pictured on page 5 is your Wyoming Historical Society's copy of the Venable's United States History book. The book says it was written by W. H. Venable of the Chickering Classical and Scientific Institute. The date is 1872.

This particular copy of the book, probably a text book, passed each year from student to student has a variety of names and dates written on the inside front and back cover and fly pages. Those include: George Pendery, Sept. 12 1878, Lockland, Ohio; Jessie Pendery, Lockland Ohio, Oct 30 1878; Birdie Pendery, Lockland; Wyoming; Adeline Simpson, Troy, Oh; Addia Patterson.

MY FIRST EXPERIENCE IN KEEPING SCHOOL

William Henry Venable

(1836-1920)

A young man of our neighborhood, living on a farm not a mile away from my father's place, had obtained a license to teach, and the rumor of his success stimulated my ambition to venture the same ordeal.

On a frosty morning late in November of the year 1853, I started bright and early from my father's door for Lebanon, the county-seat of Warren County, Ohio, distant nearly eight miles from my home, and, after three hours brisk walking reached my destination before the examination had begun, in the Union School building. I paid my fee of one dollar in advance and with a rapidly beating heart took my seat at the desk assigned me and looked around with some curiosity upon other applicants. They in turn stared at me, at least I fancied so. The examination by law were printed on little strips of paper and distributed among us, and our brains were soon busy with the task of the hour. The greater part of the day was concentrated in writing out our answers. At length, the test was over and I trudged back home very tired and dejected, not hopeful that I had given the correct answers to the questions in arithmetic or in grammar, though I felt pretty confident that I had acquitted myself fairly well in geography, a subject in which I imagined myself prepared.

Within a fortnight, two weeks, I received, through the mail, an envelope which with fumbling fingers I opened and found that it contained the desired certification. The precious document I here transcribe: "We do hereby certify that W. H. Venable possesses a good moral character and is qualified to give instruction in Orthography, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography. Given the 26th day of November, 1853, C.W. Kimball, Josiah Hurty: School Examiners of Warren County"

One of the examiners, Mr. Josiah Hurty, in the goodness of his heart, perhaps strained his official prerogative by endorsing on the margin of my certificate the words: "Mr. Venable is a better scholar than many older persons. I wish that all teachers were as well taught as he." This flattering testimony doubtless stimulated my vanity but don't believe that it did my "moral character" any harm.

I immediately cast about me to discern a field of labor in which an education of my eminence could be appreciated. The directors of the Sugar Grove School district located in a township adjoining that in which I lived, were, as I learned, on the lookout for a cheap teacher, and as I was on the lookout for any school in the universe at any price, I lost no time in making my application to the president and board of trustees, who was a most amiable gentleman, a member of the religious "Society of Friends" (Quakers), a farmer named Reuben Garrison.

(Continued on next page)

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The two other school directors were visited and as they entirely agreed with Reuben, that I was just the man they wanted. I was to receive sixty cents per day.

The school house was not furnished with a time-piece, and, to insure the punctual performance of my educational duties Reuben loaned me his old silver watch and thus added much to my dignity and a responsibility on my mind.

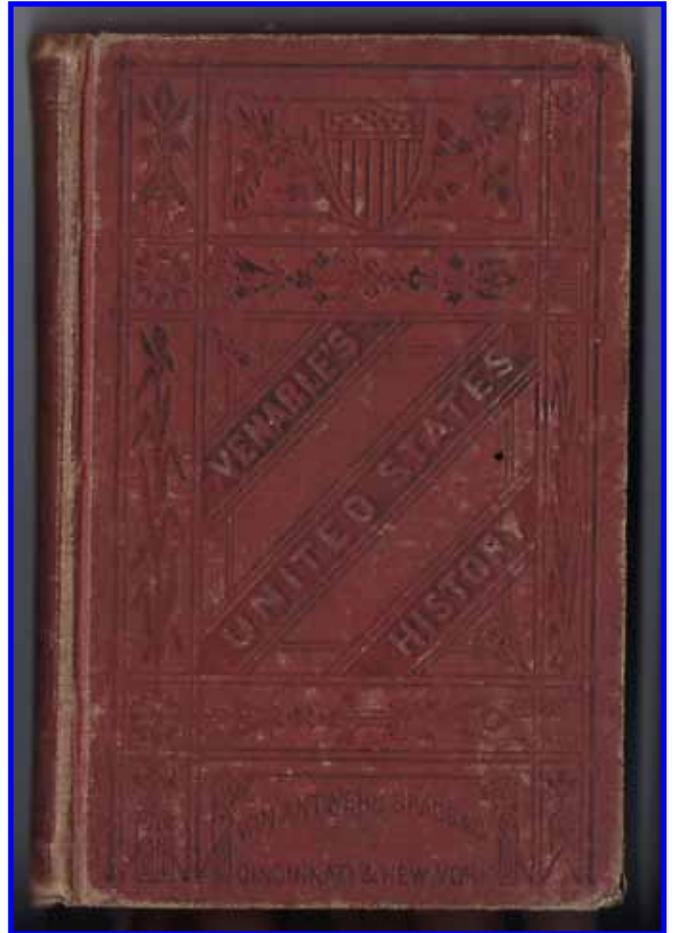
The Sugar Grove school house was located on a beautiful slope on the south bank of Newman's Run and north side of the road connecting Waynesville and Ridgeville, about three miles distant from each of these villages. It was a log cabin school house of the pioneer period, which, was standing in a strip of woods belonging to the "Cook Farm" and was in use as a maple sugar camp.

It was exactly of the character so often described by writers of the backwoods period. The wooden benches thick and heavy were unsteadily supported each by four rather clumsy legs and could easily be persuaded to drop out. Three small windows on the eastern side of the house and three on the western side admitted sufficient light.

The single door, very strongly made of hard plank, was hung on heavy strop hinges, and was fastened with a stout padlock. The roof was leaky. On rainy days the water dripping upon the hot iron stove surface kept up a continuous sizzle varied by occasional sputtering explosions quite distracting to the studious attention of my pupils.

In the front yard was a wood-pile, and this entailed upon the big boys the customary duty of the sticks with a buck-saw, into lengths suitable for the stove. Usage had assigned to the teacher the task of making the fire and removing the ashes, but I managed to farm out this onerous privilege among the obliging youngsters who urgently offered to relieve me.

Though its roof was leaky and its floor uneven; though its walls and ceilings were dingy and spotted, and its furniture was the worst conceivable for pedagogical purposes, it must not be inferred that the boys and girls who daily assembled for instruction in the Sugar Grove school house were correspondingly rude or that they were not accustomed to more attractive surroundings. They were well-clad, abundantly supplied with books, and they came from tidily-kept, commodious and even elegant homes. Their parents, for the most part, were thrifty, prosperous people, owning large farms. Many of them were Quakers of the best type, regularly attending worship every first day (Sunday) and every fourth day (Wednesday), either the Orthodox or the Hicksite meeting house at Waynesville, where they drove in their neat carriages. Some forty or fifty pupils were enrolled, of ages ranging from six to eighteen, and I had many small classes in various subjects from the alphabet to algebra, according to demand. Indeed, my willing and obedient flock did more than was asked of them in the way of learning and the majority of the "scholars" soon became so kind and friendly that our school had quite the character of a good natured family. Often the trustees and other visitors looked in upon us.



(Continued on next page)

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The winter was unusually cold and the snow lay deep upon the ground for months, yet the young folks came, in some instances from several miles away, trudging across fields and woods, wrapped in woolens and bearing their dinner-baskets. At recess, there was coasting down a steep hill near the school house. In this invigorating sport the schoolmaster joined. In truth we were all happy children together.

The school term was brought to an end without mishap, and I received my thirty-six dollars and restored Reuben's watch in as good condition as when he first loaned it to me, which is not saying much for the watch.

I vividly recollect certain social experiences enjoyed on long winter nights, while I held the position of teacher in district number two. The favorite amusement of the young people was sleigh riding; and frequent excursions were gotten up for the enjoyment of this merry sport.

Some commodious farm house or perhaps a hospitable mansion in Waynesville, was selected as a place of general meeting and festivity. Invitations were sent. Young men and maidens for miles around, would come in sleighs, with jingling bells, to the chosen center of festivity and frolic. I was always an invited guest. An upset on the road, in some safe snowdrift was often a planned incident of the night ride. Arriving at the house of our host, we always found the big parlor glowing with warmth and light. The evening was spent in lively conversation, with much laughter, romping games, and not a few practical jokes. A supper was served at about nine o'clock and, after partaking of this, the cheerful company renewed their lively sports with a demonstrative hilarity in strong contrast with the usual sedateness of Quaker deportment. Neither music nor dancing was regarded as proper, but in lieu of fiddle and waltz we had every romping pastime known to the "Book of Games", and many new devices invented for the occasion.

I made the discovery that Quaker nature is human nature, and that the demurest maid, of Orthodox or Hicksite sect, may be induced to play "Copenhagen".

VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN NEEDED.....

Do you wake up in the morning wishing you had been a librarian? You still can. Yes, you can be the librarian for your Wyoming Historical Society's Research Library.

The system is all set up so you won't have to worry about the Dewey Decimal System, we use our own. It isn't a lending library so no checking books out but new arrivals will need to be checked IN!!

If you are willing to learn, our computer program you will be able to do more things but that isn't really necessary. What we do need is someone to spend a few hours and tidy up the three racks of shelves then maintain them which is usually 15 minutes a month. We will call you when there is something to be done or you can help doing other things in our office and/or museum.

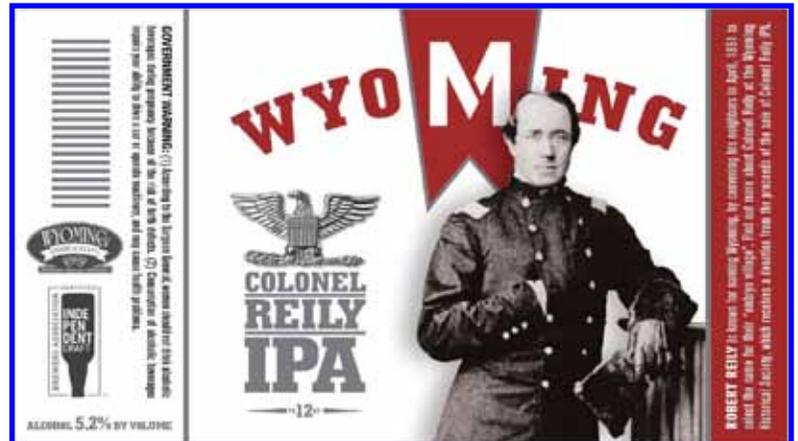
If you have any interest in helping out on a Tuesday between 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. we would love to bestow on you the title "WHS Librarian".

NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Wayne & Lesley Lyons

Wyoming Historical Society Launches New Brew...Jeff Blunt

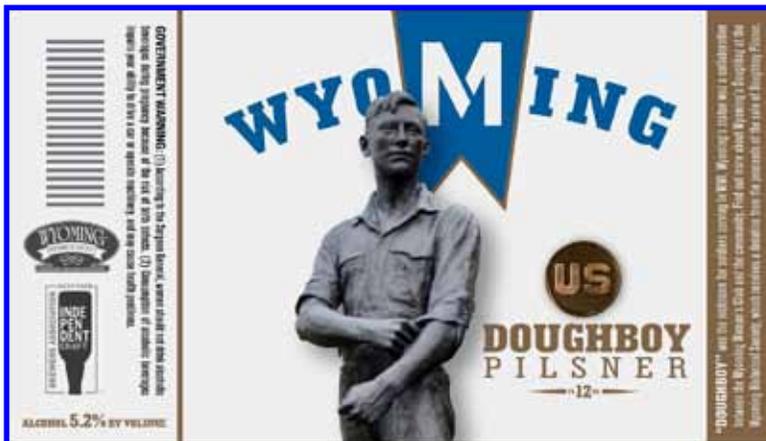
Two exciting new beers are hitting backyards, barbeques and community events this summer as part of an effort to share Wyoming's rich history with a broader audience. The Wyoming Historical Society partnered with Cincinnati's March First Brewing to bring two refreshing beers to Wyoming, each named for important figures of Wyoming history. Doughboy Pilsner has already begun production and Colonel Reily's IPA is scheduled to begin bottling soon.



“We were looking for new ways to share Wyoming’s rich history with our residents and we saw this as a fun way to bring awareness to two icons of our town’s past,” said Wyoming Historical Society President Mary Killen. “Most people living here barely know about our community’s utterly fascinating history. From our museum and guest speaker programs to the Wyoming-Opoly game and now our tasty new beers, we’re working to preserve that history and bring it alive for today’s residents.”

Doughboy Pilsner features the statue standing at the Civic Center and dedicated in 1926 to memorialize Wyoming’s World War I soldiers, or Doughboys, and those that served on the home front. Doughboy Pilsner is an easy-drinking, light and refreshing beer that will have wide appeal.

Colonel Reily’s IPA is named for Wyoming’s founder and Civil War hero Colonel Robert Reily who was killed at Virginia’s Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. The beer is a smooth, citrusy India Pale Ale that was also created to appeal to a broad range of beer drinkers.



Killen hopes to have both beers available at the Exotic Car Show at the Village Green on September 14.

Country Fresh Market in Hartwell will stock both beers in the coming weeks, though the exact date of availability is not yet known. Killen recommends asking for it by name when visiting Country Fresh later this summer.

“These beers are a fun and unique way to enjoy a locally produced beer and get familiar with two of our town’s treasures,” said Killen.

“We hope it inspires people to learn more about the eye-opening history of the town we live in.”

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: Family \$20, Contributing \$50, Business \$25. 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.

The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Street
Wyoming OH 45215

Have a wonderful summer.

Dear Members,

PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Mary Killen

As the legendary George Gershwin wrote "Summertime and the livin' is easy." I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying summer and new adventures around town or around the country.

Your trustees continue to plan for the coming year. Vice President Carol Beeson is lining up four fascinating programs with a Cincinnati theme. Some fun surprises will be included! Our craft beers, Doughboy Pilsner and Col. Reily IPA, are making appearances at city events and restaurants in Wyoming. A special thanks to Trustee Carolyn Rand for spearheading this project. And don't forget Wyoming-Opoly as a great way to learn about our city's history with family and friends.

I would like to thank last year's Junior Award winner, Grace Hitt. She spent many hours at historical volunteering and doing research. Grace will be attending Goshen College and we wish her much success in her future endeavors.

Tell your neighbors about our society and about our efforts to celebrate and preserve Wyoming's past in a variety of ways. We welcome and encourage new members.

Honoring Wyoming's Past,
Mary Killen, President

