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Historical  
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# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Mary Killen**

Dear Members,

During these unsettling and unprecedented times, your Wyoming Historical Society sends our sincere hope that you remain safe and well. Normally, we would be presenting programs and planning for events to bring interesting historical information to you. But as we all know, everything is on hold until we are through this pandemic situation.



Therefore, early on we had cancelled our March program which was to be about the "Restoration of Cincinnati Union Terminal" followed by a tour a few days later of this Cincinnati landmark. Now we are cancelling our May program which was to feature the "Powel Crosley, Jr. Story" with a special bonus of Tony Ramstetter showcasing his impressive collection of Crosley memorabilia. In addition, we also have cancelled the Reily Award Celebration for recipient Sherry Sheffield which was scheduled for May 4.

However, we will be back in the Fall with these and other events. Our offices and History Museum will reopen when possible. It is important for us to remain a vital community organization and to continually educate, preserve and appreciate Wyoming's past.

One thing I have learned over my years as a Wyoming resident and as a student of Wyoming history, we care for each other in our community and stand strong together when needed. My thoughts are with you and your families. Until we are able to gather again...

Honoring Wyoming's Past,  
Mary Killen, President

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place to visit.

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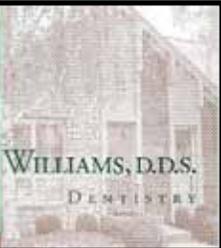
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# TEST TIME DRIVE

During this quarantine time, we thought you might like something to occupy your time and increase your knowledge of Wyoming and its history. Here is a quiz that serves that purpose. Answers can be found on Page 7.

## THE STREETS OF WYOMING

1. Identify the five streets that are named after past mayors:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the only remaining roadway in Wyoming to have the name 'Street' in it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name the two streets in Wyoming that have no building addresses on them? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What street is named after one of the seven founders of Denver, CO? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name the "Trails" in Wyoming? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What were these streets now known as?  
Vine: \_\_\_\_\_ Sims: \_\_\_\_\_  
Winton Ave: \_\_\_\_\_ McLaren: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kaufman: \_\_\_\_\_ Sherman: \_\_\_\_\_
7. What does DORINO mean? \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Street became \_\_\_\_\_ Street which is now Wirtz Way!
9. There are 19 streets in Wyoming that start with the letter "C". How many can you name? (Include those with directional names in front) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
There are 16 that start with "W" if you want another challenge! \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What was Wyoming Avenue previously known as? \_\_\_\_\_

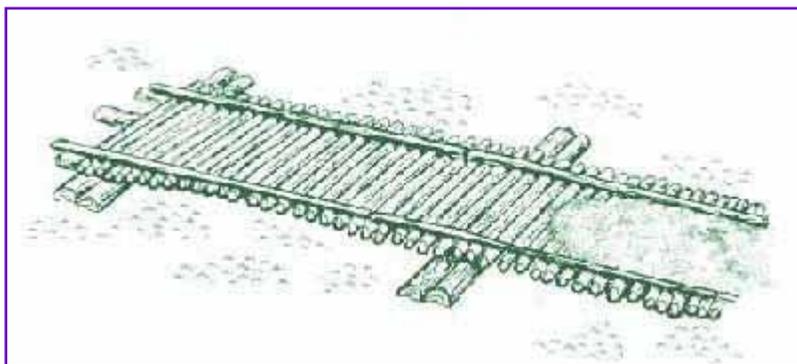


## 1917 - DEBATE OVER SPRINGFIELD PIKE PAVEMENT...Angela Stiefbold

This article was written by Angela Stiefbold, former Wyoming resident and board member of your historical society. It was taken from her blog which was written shortly before she and her family moved to North Carolina in 2017. With the eminent completion of the work on Springfield Pike, it might be fun to look at how things were on that road before this current project.

Trying to determine the best way to pave or configure Springfield Pike is not a new problem (learn more about its history in a previous blog post). While we currently debate the wisdom of putting Springfield Pike on a "road diet" in order to fund its reconstruction and repaving with asphalt, 100 years ago Wyoming residents were weighing the merits of brick vs. wood pavers.

Today the idea of wooden roads seems very unusual. However, Springfield Pike was first built by Hamilton County pioneers as a "corduroy road" -- constructed by laying rough-hewn logs perpendicular to the direction of travel, to minimize the muddiness of dirt roads.



Corduroy Road

Source: Wikimedia/U.S. Forest Service

Wood block pavers were used in cities across the U.S. in the mid-nineteenth century. There were a variety of approaches, varying by time and place, to constructing them, using different types of wood, different size blocks, and sometimes coating the blocks with tar or creosote. The grain end of the wood was placed facing up, as it was the best at resisting chipping and wear. Wood blocks were preferred as being quieter than brick or stone for residential neighborhoods.

Here is a link (link no longer valid) to a really good article about the history of wood pavers and of Hessler Court in Cleveland, near Case-Western Reserve University, which still is paved with wood. And another article about the use of wood pavers in Chicago ([forgottenchicago.com/articles/wood-block-alleys/](http://forgottenchicago.com/articles/wood-block-alleys/)).

There were trade-offs between using wood or stone/brick for paving. Wood was quieter. Stone and brick lasted longer. And there seems to be some debate as to which gave better traction for horses' hooves. Stone and brick started out rough, but wore down to a smooth, slippery surface. Wood had more give, but when it became wet from either rain or animal excrement, it became slippery; wood's ability to absorb liquids also resulted in it holding odors, and distorting its shape.

(Continued on next page)

**WOOD BLOCK TO BE USED**

**In Improving Springfield Pike  
Through Village of Wyoming.**

County Commissioners yesterday conferred with officials of the village of Wyoming relative to the improvement of the Springfield pike, a portion of the Dixie Highway. Wyoming officials said if the Commissioners would improve the pike with wood block instead of brick they would pay the additional cost.

The state and the county are jointly improving the pike outside of incorporated villages with brick, and the Commissioners plan to improve the pike in Wyoming. The proposition of the Wyoming officials was tentatively accepted yesterday.

County Surveyor Boeh was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for the reconstruction of a retaining wall along Clough Creek pike. The wall has been undermined by recent rains.

Plans and specifications were ordered by the Commissioners for the improvement of Ebenezer road at a cost of \$10,891. The Commissioners approved plans and specifications for the construction of a road through the Hamilton County Experiment Farm, to cost \$6,119 50.

Source: Cincinnati Enquirer January 10, 1917.

(Continued from previous page)

Relative cost varied depending upon time and place, and in 1917 in Hamilton County, it was wood pavers that were more expensive. Therefore, the county commissioners wanted the village taxpayers to cover the extra cost of using wood, if that is what they wanted the pavement to be on the Pike through Wyoming.



According to Village Council Minutes, on January 29th they were leaning toward using wood pavers for Springfield Pike. However, on February 19th, residents who lived along Springfield Pike came to the council objecting to the use of wood pavers. Ultimately, after discussion by the Village Council, it was decided to not spend the extra money on wood pavers, and just allow the county to pave Springfield Pike with brick through Wyoming.

Wood Pavers on South Camac Street, Philadelphia  
Source: Wikimedia

When I went to the Wyoming Historical Society to consult the Wyoming Village Council Meeting Minute Book for 1917, to learn what the final decision was on paving materials, I was also shown this stone block, and told that it came out of Springfield Pike. It is really interesting to hold and touch, as five sides are really rough and the sixth side is worn quite smooth, from years of traffic.



Springfield Pike Paver

## Born in Marietta, Ohio...compiled by Glenn Lewis

It is said that the three greatest documents in American history are the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. In fact, much of the Constitution came about as a direct result of writings in the Northwest Ordinance. The Bill of Rights had its beginning in the six articles of the Northwest Ordinance.

Some of these similarities include:

- Freedom of religion
- Trial by jury
- No cruel or unusual punishment
- Freedom from slavery or involuntary servitude

The Northwest Ordinance stated some important ideas and rights. Here are some examples:

- Ownership of the land was passed down to the owner's descendant.
- Governors would govern the territory; first by being appointed by Congress; then by being elected when enough people lived there.
- A secretary would keep track of all legal records for the territory and would send copies to the Congress
- Judges would be appointed to settle disputes between residents in the territory.
- The governor would be the commander-in-chief of the militia.
- The governor would appoint sheriffs to protect the citizens. They are now elected rather than appointed.
- Civil and religious freedoms were to be protected.
- Every person would have rights in court.
- Slavery was prohibited. Nearly 100 years later, after the Civil War, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution would repeat almost the same words – ending slavery in the United States.
- Education was encouraged.

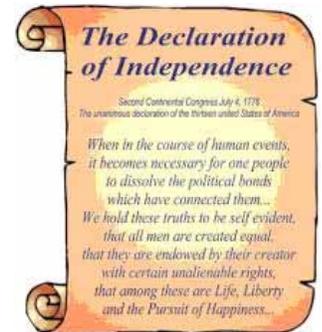
The legacy of the Northwest Ordinance was a nation that reached “from sea to shining sea”. Before this ordinance, there was no method by which a territory could become a state. With this ordinance, not only was a method adopted, but it was a method that worked well.

The Northwest Territory doubled the size of the new nation. It included all or part of six future states – Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and part of Minnesota.

The driving force behind settling Ohio was Massachusetts minister Manasseh Cutler, who persuaded Congress to pass the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, opening the territory to settlers.



The United States acquired the vast territory from England thanks to John Adams' no-compromise negotiation of the 1783 Treaty of Paris that ended the conflict. Adams vowed Americans would go back to war if England refused to cede the territory.



(Continued from previous page)

One section of the ordinance stated that:

*“The utmost good faith shall always be observed toward the Indians. Their lands and property shall never be taken from them without their consent; and in their property, rights, and liberty, they shall never be invaded or disturbed unless in just and lawful wars authorized by Congress.”*

Unfortunately, years later, the last part of this section was used to justify taking lands from them in Ohio, but especially in the Great Plains and farther western lands.

So, with the method ready, the nation was set to go forward thanks to the visionaries who reasoned together at Marietta, Ohio.



Excerpts from:  
Along the Ohio Trail by Tanya West  
Dean and W. David Spears  
The Pioneers by David McCullough  
Settlers' Unrest, American Spirit magazine,  
January/February 2020



## NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Chris & Wesley Adamson - Bruce Fehn - Bill & Kay Fluharty  
Jacqueline Francis - Suzy Henke - Bryan & Victoria Goldstein  
Wayne & Lesley Lyons - Tim & Christine Marty

## 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.

## TEST TIME answers...

1- Barney, Bonham, Harmon, Ritchie, Savage. 2- Charles Street. 3- Cooper & Savage Way. 4- Stout named after Elisha Pickney Stout. 5- Abilene, Chisholm, Laramie, Oregon. 6- Vine-Van Roberts, Sims – West Hill Lane, Winton Ave – Bonham, McLaren – Poplar, Kaufman – W Mills, Sherman – Egan Lane. 7- In the late 1920's, Dr. Emerson North owned all the land that comprises Dorino. He had his house moved from near the Pike to the back of the lot (#53). He had the street put in and named it after his daughter, **DOR**othy Irene **NO**rth. 8- Walnut Street became Water Street is now Wirtz Way. 9- Camberly, Central Terrace, Charles, Charlotte East, Charlotte West, Chatham, Chenora, Chestnut, Chisholm, Criclewood, Clark, Cochise, Cody Pass, Compton Hills, Compton Ridge, Compton, Congress Run, Crescent, Crosley (if you did the “W’s” also...Walnut, Washington, Wirtz, Waverly, Wentworth, West, West Galbraith, West Hill, Whitthorne, Willowbrook, Wilmuth, Woodbrook, Woodknoll, Worthington, Wyoming, Wyoming Woods). 10- Lockland Lane!!

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

*Looking forward to being  
able to meet again!  
Stay well.*

## **WYOMING'S HISTORY WITH GAS STATIONS...**

Where do you buy your gasoline for all those errands? Woodlawn or Hartwell maybe? Well back in the 1950's, Wyoming had 8 gas stations within its borders. Yes, 8! See how many you remember!!



**1-City Service**, 1206 Springfield Pike. That building was taken down, the area remediated and a Friendly's Ice Cream parlor went in. It is now Spring Valley Bank.

**2-Gulf**, corner 508 Van Roberts and Wyoming Ave with the RR tracks on the east. Currently a parking lot, the gas station became a carryout for many years.

**3-Gulf**, 1510 Springfield Pike went from gas station in the 1940's to a dry cleaner. In 1970, a new building was built and it became Wyoming Veterinary Clinic. When the clinic moved to Woodlawn, a hair salon opened in that spot.

**4-Marathon**, NW corner, 1507 Springfield Pike & W. Charlotte. Currently the office of Doctors Eger and Marty.

**5-Standard Oil**, 517 Wyoming Ave - railroad tracks on the east. Now Wyoming Automotive.



**6-Standard Oil**, Chestnut and 1230 Springfield Pike, now Sheldon Reder. Originally run by Marshall Spears, one of the first black operators in the Cincinnati area. For some years, it was a West Shell Real Estate office before becoming Sheldon Reder.

**7-Texaco**, 1217 Springfield Pike now Santos Auto Service.

**8-Tressler Comet**, 1517 Springfield Pike, started about 1950. When they left, about 1980, it became "Flea and Me", next a hair salon, then a massage parlor and now CWC-The Restaurant.