

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

January 2023

A Publication of the Wyoming Historical Society and Museum

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.



Krutarth Jain, AIA, ACHA, EDAC, LEED AP BD+C combines his knowledge of architecture, urban design, and planning with his experience as a former part-time Intern Planner/Urban Designer at the University of Cincinnati, Division of Campus Planning and Architecture, to continue his great work with local organizations.

Champlin Architecture is thriving in several areas across the region with a headquarters in downtown Cincinnati, and offices in Dayton, Indianapolis, Lexington; and Toledo. Champlin has been in business for more than 100 years.

January 26, 2023

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

FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS

Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215
513.842.1383

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
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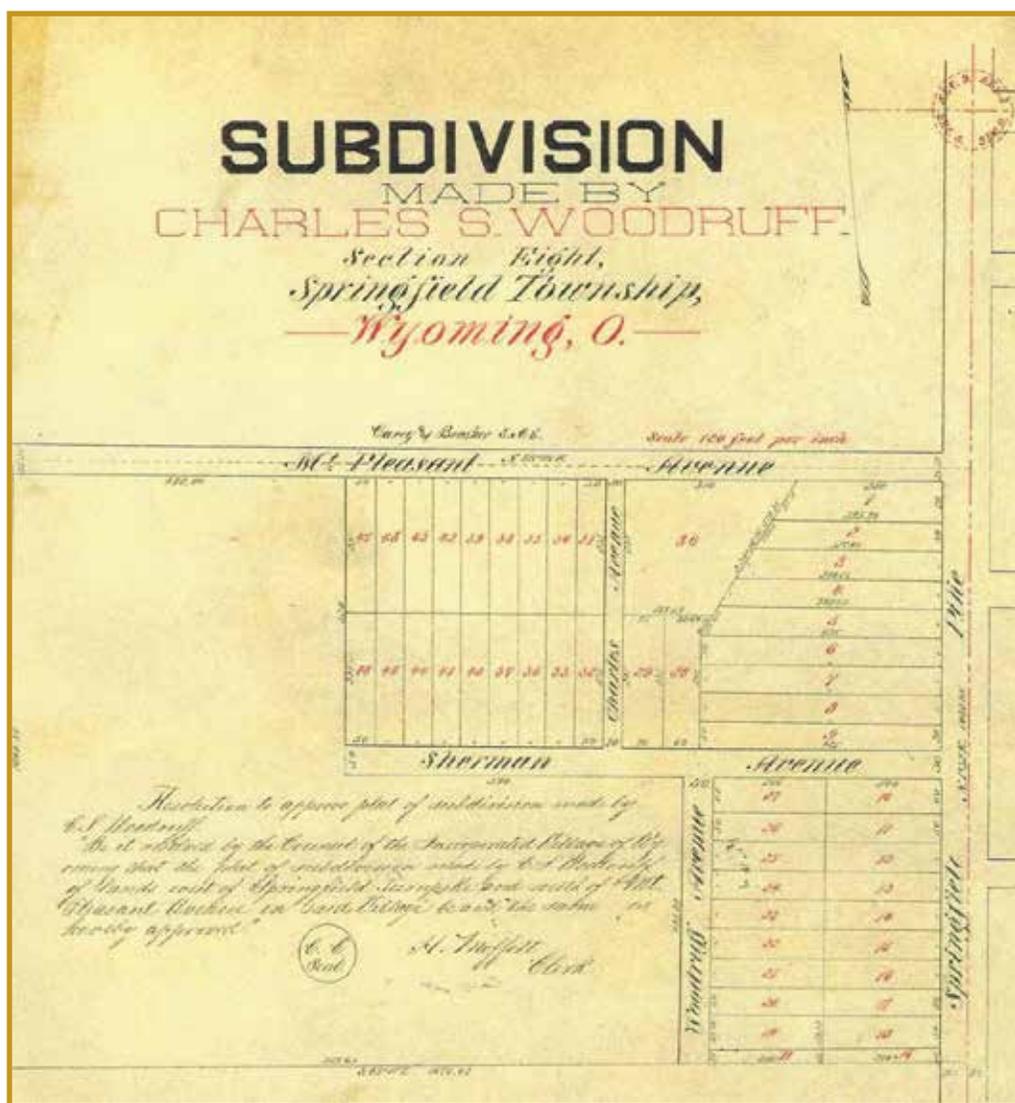
EGAN LANE'S STORY.....Sherry Sheffield

Wyoming had a number of short, as in not long in distance, streets. Wirtz Way and David J. Savage Way are two examples of the shortest. Then there is Egan. A small street off Springfield Pike just south of Mt. Pleasant. Small enough that you can miss it if you blink but wonder what is down that drive if you see the street sign! Only three houses decorate the landscape.

Egan's history goes back aways. Much of the land on the west side of Springfield Pike from St. James south was owned by Charles Sherman Woodruff (1816-1899). He was one of our early entrepreneurs. Woodruff built the now demolished Woodruff Building which sat at the intersection of Worthington and the railroad tracks. It became our first center of business. He was also into real estate and served as the first Postmaster. In 1875, he envisioned the subdivision shown on the left at the intersection of Mt. Pleasant and the Pike, complete with Charles Avenue, Sherman Avenue, and Woodruff Avenue, his three names!

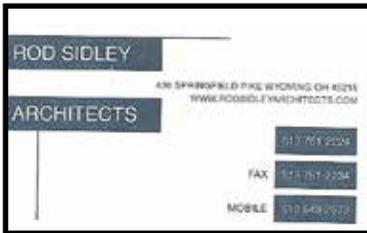
Fast forward to about 1939 when James F. Breen purchased a small part of that subdivision, put in Egan Lane about where Sherman Avenue was to be, and built three houses on that

short street. Egan was James Breen's mother's maiden name. Charles Avenue, now Charles Street, was the only one of those streets that actually happened. However, when the Wyoming Glen subdivision was built, not too many years ago, one of their streets was named in his honor, Woodruff Lane. His middle name, Sherman, didn't make the grade!



Woodruff's 1875 Subdivision drawing showing Springfield Pike, Mt. Pleasant and a few streets that didn't make it.

BUSINESS MEMBERS



WYOMING PASTRY SHOP

The bakery has been serving the Village of Wyoming and surrounding areas since 1934. Phillip and Kimberly Reschke are the fifth owners of this hometown bakery. Phillip is a second generation Master Baker and Kimberly has been decorating cakes for 30 years, We strive for complete customer satisfaction. We want you to think of us whenever you have a craving for something sweet, a special cake or cookie, or one of our many products we offer. We are a small business and will keep it small so we can control our quality to provide the best product to you.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Maureen Geiger
Kevin Grace

THANK YOU...

A thank you to our retiring Board of Trustees members for their time and dedication to making this organization better: David Lentz and Mike O'Neill.

2023 Wyoming Historical Society

OFFICERS:

Jim Walton, President
David Savage, Vice-President
Maureen Geiger Treasurer
Mickey Jewett, Secretary

Sherry Sheffield
Newsletter Editor &
Office Manager

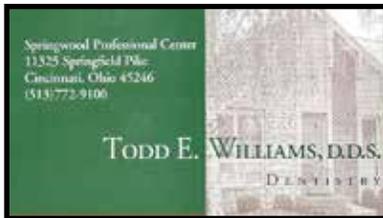
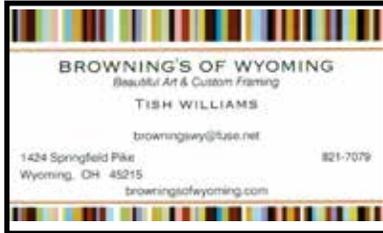
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Anne Black
Jeff Blunt
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Kevin Grace
Brian Pitman
Amy Pursley
Sue Saylor
Graydon Sikes

-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- REMAINING PROGRAM FOR THE 2022-2023 YEAR

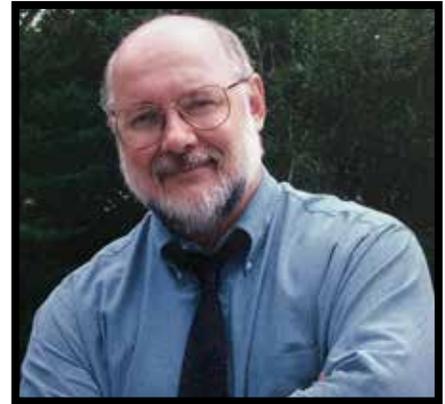
March 23, 2023 - Polly Campbell on the History of Cincinnati Cuisine: Cincinnatians are staunchly proud of our namesake chili, and fiercely loyal to our legacy food makers. Polly Campbell documented this love affair for nearly 25 years as the *Enquirer's* food critic, and has compiled her vast knowledge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

BUSINESS MEMBERS



JOINING THE BOARD IS: Kevin Grace

Kevin Grace and his wife, Joan Fenton, have lived in Wyoming for 33 years. They have five children, the two youngest attending Wyoming schools from kindergarten through high school, and they have three grandchildren. After 42 years at the University of Cincinnati where he headed the Archives & Rare Books Library and taught in the University Honors Program, Kevin retired in 2021. He is currently a 2022



Fellow at Cincinnati's Lloyd Library & Museum with his project on the medicinal heritage and ethnohistory of mustard. Kevin has written more than a dozen books on Cincinnati history and currently manages three Facebook pages: Literary Heritage of Cincinnati, Cincinnati Shakespeare Gin Guild and Benevolent Society, and The Stouthearted Friends of Mustard.

JOINING THE BOARD IS: Maureen Geiger



20+ years ago, dodging an I75N traffic jam on her way home from her downtown Interior Designer job, Maureen swerved off an unfamiliar exit to find herself captivated by a Victorian neighborhood that advertised good schools, sidewalks, and an amazing tree canopy. When she got home, she told her husband, Chris, that they would be moving there, it was home. For many months, Maureen's husband patiently humored her Wyoming dreams:

They'd raise two daughters in a Victorian house with a beloved cottage garden. There's a JWC, UFBC and HPC that she'd join. Maureen also hinted that maybe she'd just work for Chris's construction company (Geiger Construction Products), too; after all, it's only 10 minutes down the street – and he has been looking for a good drafts-person and project manager. Maybe her sisters could even move to this Mayberry of a town! Chris laughed, this last part was definitely a stretch, since her sisters lived all over the country, but what's the harm in dreaming? So, Maureen kept on dreaming until her dreams came true.

JOINING THE BOARD IS: **Graydon Sikes**

I'm very excited to have the opportunity to contribute in some modest way to the Wyoming Historical Society! My wife Crystal and I have lived in Wyoming since 2018, along with our three children (Oliver, Phoebe and Winston).

Most of my career has been related to collecting and historical research. I currently am the co-owner, along with my brothers Will and Evan, of our family gallery and auction house- Caza Sikes Gallery in Oakley. We represent about 50 artists and hold special exhibitions throughout the year. Our primary business is the auction business, where we hold 6 auctions each year of antiques, historical material and fine art. We also conduct appraisals. Prior to this, I spent a decade at Cowan's Auctions, running their Fine and Decorative Art Department, as well as at EBTH (Everything But the House), as their Director of Fine Art. I also still work for the PBS series "The Antiques Roadshow" where I am an appraiser for the Paintings & Drawings table.



I'm a lifelong Cincinnati, with an MA in Art History from the University of Cincinnati. I grew up in Clifton, and we moved to Wyoming 4 years ago for the unbelievable schools and neighborhood.

OUR EARLY LIBRARY.....

The first library, in 1880, was formed by 24 young Wyoming women who moved from home to home with their books. They formed the Wyoming Library Association which was incorporated! They held teas to earn money for books and took turns being librarian. As their collection grew, moving them proved cumbersome. So, they moved to a room in the school and eventually were given a room in the Amusement Hall. When that hall burned in 1907, they were given a room in the new amusement hall. But when that burned in 1948, the third building, our current Civic Center, did not have room for the library and the books were turned over to the public library system. Wyoming only had a bookmobile from then until the Bonham Branch was finished in 1959.



While named Bonham Branch for Judge Frank S. Bonham Sr., former mayor of Wyoming, it was the only branch in the library system to bear the name of a person. Several years ago the name was changed to Wyoming Branch to identify it by location as all the other branches were.

BABY ALICE THUMB GUARD ON TRIAL.....Amy Pursley

When Morton C. Maish, Sr. moved to 727 Burns Avenue in 1920, he was working as a salesman for an electric manufacturing company. In 1927, Morton and his wife, Helen, welcomed a daughter named Alice into their family. Alice had three older brothers who were 11, 12 and 14 years her senior. Apparently, little Alice tended to suck her thumb because in 1929, her father filed for a patent for a “finger guard” to “prevent infants from sucking their thumbs. Patent #1944752 was granted in 1934. Morton marketed the device as the “Baby Alice Thumb Guard” made by his newly formed company: Guard Manufacturing Company in Cincinnati, Ohio.

A 1932 advertisement in *Good Housekeeping Magazine* claims Maish’s device was “safe, sanitary, comfortable. Made of Monel Metal wire. Inexpensive. Approved by leading baby specialists. Sold by surgical dealers, department stores and baby shops – everywhere.”



STOP Thumb Sucking

Thumb sucking can be immediately corrected with the

Baby Alice Thumb Guard

Safe, sanitary, comfortable. Made of Monel Metal wire. Inexpensive. Approved by leading baby specialists. Sold by surgical dealers, department stores and baby shops—everywhere.

Guard Mfg. Co. 5 West 74th St. Cincinnati, Ohio

“Everywhere” included New Jersey because in 1935, Mr. Maish was summoned to testify in the Lindburgh baby kidnapping trial. A thumb guard “was found nearly a month after the abduction by Betty Gow, nurse to the Lindburgh baby, approximately 300 feet from the entrance to the Lindburgh estate. The guard plays a large part in the state’s contention that the baby was dead before the kidnapper left the estate. The state charges the thumb guard inadvertently was taken off when the abductor removed the sleeping suit from the child’s body to use in demanding ransom.” (Cincinnati Enquirer, 10 Jan 1935, p. 1)

“Maish, business-like and wholly at ease, came all the way from Cincinnati to testify for 10 minutes. In that 10 minutes, he said he manufactured the ‘Baby Alice’ thumb guard used by Mrs. Lindbergh. ‘It will not rust,’ he declared, ‘Even when it is exposed to the elements. It might get a little tarnished but it won’t rust.’” (Cincinnati Post, 16 Jan 1935, p. 2)

The defense moved to strike out Maish’s testimony claiming that he “was not an expert and that the evidence presented by him was not competent. ... The court denied the defense motion, and Maish’s testimony was allowed to stand.” (The Evening Star, Washington D.C., 16 Jan 1935, p. A-4)

A United Press Staff Correspondent described the courtroom during Maish’s testimony: “There is something about the tiny contraption that brings the tears smarting behind lowered lids every time it is dangled in view of the hushed audience. It is mute but eloquent evidence that the golden-haired son of a world hero was not different from other little boys.” (Cincinnati Post, 16 Jan 1935, p. 2)

BUFFALO BILL AND THE WILD WEST....Edited by Glenn Lewis

E.Z.C. Judson, whose pseudonym was Ned Buntline made William F. Cody a hero and engraved his name into the history of the Great Plains with his dime novel *The Scouts of the Prairie*. Prior to venturing into his well-known Wild West outdoor reenactment, Cody and Buntline took the Scouts on a stage tour. After appearing before a sold-out house in Chicago, the troupe opened a weeklong run in Cincinnati in late December 1872. The play, according to the *Daily Gazette*, had “all the thrilling romance, treachery, love, revenge, and hate of a dozen of the richest dime novels ever written.” No fewer than “forty braves and pale faces” were killed during the course of the play. The “braes” were painted white impostors, who shouted, danced, and shot “with more regularity than any genuine sons of the forest.” A week later the newspaper stated that the spectators, who had packed themselves in to the gallery of Pike’s Opera House, were not from the “cleaner classes of our population.” The house, the announcement continued, would be closed for a few days of fumigation after enduring its riotous western raid.



Cody moved the show to an outdoor arena for an Independence Day celebration in his hometown of North Platte, Nebraska, in July 1882. A year later, on June 2, 1883, Buffalo Bill arrived in Cincinnati again – this time with eight buffalo, an elk herd, Texas steers, and “comical Mexican burros burdened with the outfits of wandering miners.” Sioux and Pawnee Indians in “full war-paint and feathers” marched to the “Base Ball Park.” Accompanied by Buffalo Bill, a band, and the actual Deadwood stagecoach.

The park itself assumed a Wild West character. A whitewashed fence encircled the inner field and functioned as a racetrack for quarter-mile races. Cowboy, cook and dining tents were located in the right-field corner and Indian tipis occupied the center-field corner.

The outdoor show played to packed audiences, staying until June 10. The following year, on October 19, 1884, Buffalo Bill brought his Wild West to the “Base Ball Park.” The company was larger still. Texas steers and buffalo ran freely, then were lassoed and ridden by cowboys. The performance concluded with a simulated Indian attack on a settler’s cabin, complete with cracks of rifle fire. Annie Oakley, who at age fifteen was supplying game for a Cincinnati hotel, joined Buffalo Bill’s Wild West in 1885; Sitting Bull, the famous Lakota Sioux chief toured with the troupe the same year. Among other highly publicized events, the program included a buffalo hunt, the Congress of Rough Riders, Indian war dances, the reenactment of Custer’s Last Stand at Little big Horn, and scenes from the Ghost Dance.

Cody hired Indians, mostly Oglala Lakota Sioux, at the Pine Ridge Reservation in western South Dakota. Cody accepted Indians as equal to the other performers. His prestige and reputation for honest dealing allowed him to hire the Lakota without alarming either the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Indian agents on the reservations, who were unnerved by any unexpected actions.

Source: *The American Circus*, by John Culhane, and *Rookwood and The American Indian*, Anita Ellis and Susan Labry Meyn.

The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Street
Wyoming OH 45215

*Look forward to seeing you at our
program on Thursday, January 26th*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Jim Walton

Hello All,

The new year is approaching, get your resolutions ready! We have an exciting 2023 planned, featuring new programs at the Civic Center and a host of other fun activities. Looking forward to seeing our trustees, members, volunteers and friends in the new year. Peace.



IN MEMORIAM....

We remember and thank those Historical Society members who we have lost over the past two years.

Jo Ach - Carol Beeson - Dee Briggs - Bob Badgley - Margaret Orendorff