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# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

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

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Member of:  
Ohio Association of Historical  
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and Local History,  
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## ROOKWOOD POTTERY



We invite you to join us for a program on Rookwood Pottery on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming, 7 PM. The speaker is Carolyn Honkomp. The church is located on the corner of Burns and Wyoming Avenues.

1880 was a very big year. Wyoming's first library was started and so was the Rookwood Pottery. Maria Longworth founded Rookwood which through the years experimented with glazes and kiln temperatures to form the beautiful product we know as Rookwood Pottery. Maria started with tableware and in 1902 added architectural pottery. The drinking fountain surrounds in the Wyoming Middle School are Rookwood.

Please join us to learn more. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served!



## JOINING THE BOARD IS: JoAnne Pipes

She's so busy we had to go to her work to get the pictures. We are talking about JoAnne Pipes our newest board member.

JoAnne, a pharmacist at Kroger in Woodlawn, graduated from Wyoming High School, attended Western College for Women for a few years then took a long sabbatical where she spent a number of years in the hair care industry. She returned to Cincinnati and worked for P&G. She then received a degree from UC in biology and chemistry. Next, in 1991, she graduated from Pharmacy School. JoAnne worked in Chicago at Walgreen's for 17 years. She has returned again to Cincinnati and has been with Kroger since 2008.

Behind all that chemistry background is a Renaissance Woman who loves art and does linoleum block prints, gardens and is a photographer. We welcome her to our board and back to Wyoming. Next time you are in the pharmacy at Kroger's introduce yourself!



**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES**  
**FOR MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL AT APRIL 23rd MEETING**

Your Board believes we need 2 bylaw changes to improve operation of the Society. At present our bylaws require the Treasurer to also keep the membership records. This places a great deal of work on one person, to the extent we haven't actually been doing it that way. The changes below in Articles VIII and X will fix that. The second change (Article XV) will eliminate delays in making small payments because a second officer is not available.

We submit these in this newsletter because bylaws require proposed changes to be submitted to the membership at least 10 days before a vote of the membership, which we plan to hold at the April \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.

Wording to be eliminated is shown in *regular italics*; new wording is shown in ***bold italics***.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

..... [No change to Sections 1 thru 3]

**Section 4. Treasurer:**

The treasurer shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Society, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains and losses.

The treasurer shall prepare an annual budget to be submitted to the membership for approval at the Annual Meeting. Copies of said proposed budget shall be made available to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

*The treasurer shall keep a membership record containing the name, address and telephone number of each member, the date of admission to membership and, in cases where membership has been terminated for any reason whatsoever, the fact and date of such termination and the reason therefore, and shall report to the board the names of members who have been dropped from membership due to non-payment of dues.*

**ARTICLE X**  
**COMMITTEES**

.....[No change to Sections 1 thru 5]

**Section 6. Membership Committee:**

[New section]

***There shall be a Membership Committee of one or more members. The committee shall keep a membership record containing the name, address, telephone number, and email address when available, of each member, the date of admission to membership and, in cases where membership has been terminated for any reason whatsoever, the fact and date of such termination and the reason therefore. The Committee shall make available to the board copies of the membership list as requested, and shall report to the board the names of members who have been dropped from membership due to non-payment of dues.***

**ARTICLE XV**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

.....[No change to Sections 1 and 3]

**Section 2. Checks and Endorsements:**

All checks and drafts upon the funds to the credit of the Society in its depositories shall be signed by the treasurer. ***When such check is for an amount \$500 or greater, it must also be countersigned by the president or vice president of the Society.***

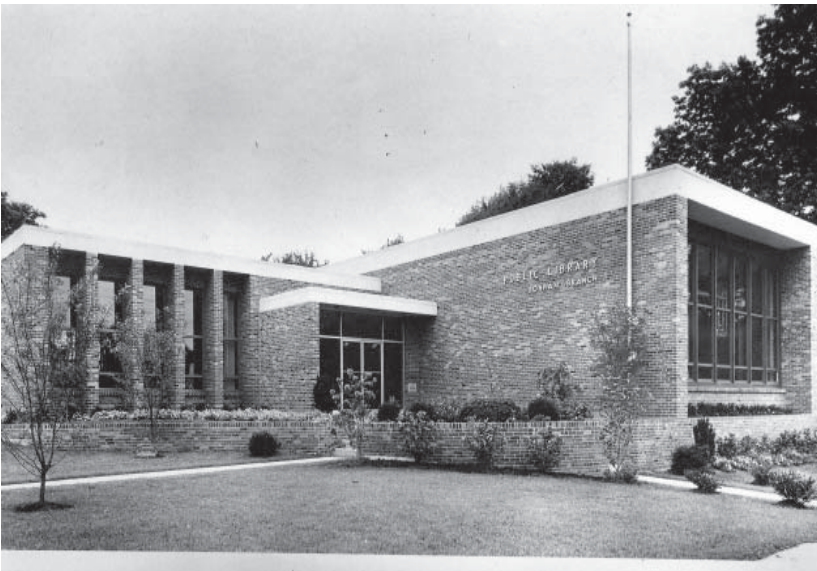
# 50 YEARS AND COUNTING

On April 13<sup>th</sup> the Wyoming Branch Library will turn 50 years old. We have been blessed to have a long tradition of libraries in our community.

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. When their collection grew cumbersome 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 until the Bonham branch was finished in 1959.

While named Bonham Branch for Judge Frank S. Bonham, 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.

Everyone is invited to an open house on April 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 PM to celebrate 50 years of service to the Wyoming community.



## DID YOU KNOW?

- The architect for the building was Cordes, Pressler, Houck and Associates!
- The contractor was William Lichtenberg Sons!
- Mildred Schulze was the first librarian at the new branch!
- Book capacity is 25,000 volumes.
- When built it was "the largest installation in the upper Millcreek Valley"!
- The library cost \$131,696.04 to build in 1959!
- Dr. J. Stewart Matthews owned the land and sold it to the city at an 'attractive' price!
- Mayor Bonham's grandson was married in this library in 1991.



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# HANDBELLS IN HISTORY

By Sue Moriarty

Bell ringing in the church goes back to the time of Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Constantine wanted all the priests to ring at appointed hours to bring people to church. The bells were also a way of keeping time as they were rung in the early morning, noon, late afternoon, evening and other hours. There were many superstitions surrounding bells at the time. One such superstition was small handbells were used to ward off evil spirits from the bedside of a dying person.

The use of the organ in the late middle ages and into the Baroque time of Bach replaced the importance of bell ringing. In the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century 'tower' ringing became popular. Bell ringers climb into the towers to pull the bell ropes. The ringing was called 'change' ringing. This kind of ringing involves working out formulas to ring all the bells in a sequence that doesn't repeat itself. Their peal can go on for a very long time if there are a lot of bells involved.

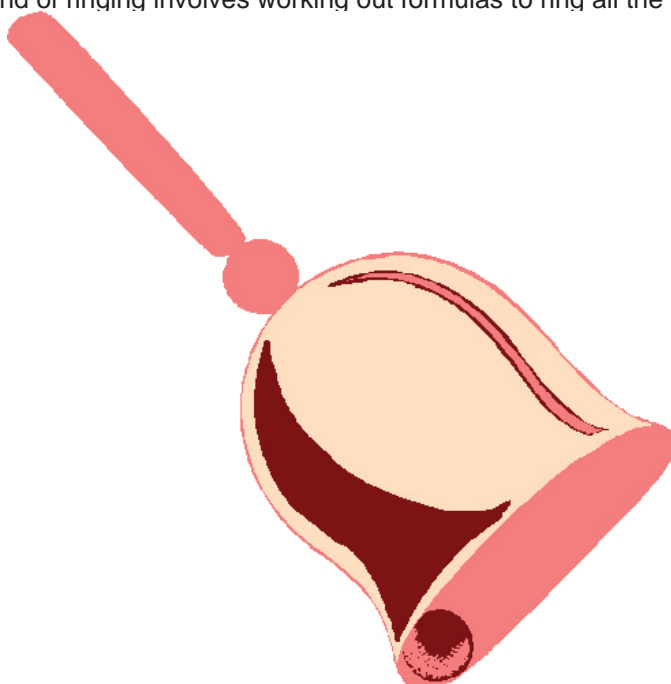
The British brought bells to the North Church in Boston for this very activity. During this time, the ringers decided it would be warmer to have corresponding handbells made to practice their 'changes' inside. 'Tune' ringing became popular in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with the ringing of Christmas carols.

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century 'handbell' ringing was in its heyday. At Belle Vue Gardens, Manchester, England, handbell ringing competitions were held, and special excursion trains ran to bring the ringers to the festivals. P.T. Barnum was the first person to introduce some of these competitive groups to the U.S. Mrs. A.A. Shurcliff of Boston, Massachusetts brought back a set of handbells after a visit to England in 1926. Others liked the sound and began to order their own sets. The New England Guild of English Handbell Ringers was formed in Mrs Shurcliff's living room in 1937, and in 1954 the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers was formed, again in her living room.

Tune ringing since then has brought many changes in the addition of techniques, level of difficulty and an increase in the number of bells that can be considered a "hand" bell. Instead of bells all being made of bronze, the largest bells can now be rung by hand because they are made from aluminum. Each ringer is responsible for two bells (corresponding to two white keys on the piano) and any accidentals (the black keys) that are in the music.

The Wyoming Presbyterian Church handbell ringers were formed in the early 1990's and directed by Gerald Bailey. They had a range of two octaves. Carol Wolf, Libby Kishida and Bill Seale were interim directors. In 2007 Mary Pennycuff became director. Under her capable leadership, the ringers have become quite adept. Soon, with only a few more members, the little band of ringers will be able to finish out the fourth octave of their set.

This accomplished musical group can be heard once a month on Sunday morning in the traditional worship service at the Wyoming Presbyterian Church.



## ← FOURTH OF JULY PARADE →

Remember to look for us at the Annual Wyoming Fourth of July Parade. Members of the high school band and our Junior History Award winner will all be riding on the fire engine.

## FALL HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

The Wyoming Historical Society's Biennial Historic House Tour will be held this fall. If you wish to volunteer please contact Jenni McCauley, 948-1392.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER . . . Sherry Sheffield

Your historical society's purpose is not only to preserve Wyoming's history but to house materials for research in whatever form that may take. I am pleased to say that in the past several weeks we have welcomed a number of people who are looking for answers in our archives.

Most interesting is that they range from a current high school student, to a Harvard doctoral candidate, to an older local writer. Each had their own reasons to pick through our materials looking to solve their particular puzzle.

This reminds me of just how important it is that we continue our mission to collect materials pertinent to Wyoming's history and development. Please consider us your depository for all things Wyoming. What happens today is history tomorrow and we need to keep collecting.

Almost as important is that our materials are accessible. We are working hard to organize our collections so items are easy to find and use. This isn't rocket science but it takes plenty of volunteers numbering and tagging items and papers. We have a long way to go and could use the help of any one with time on Tuesday's to come down to our headquarters to "play"!



## CARING FOR YOUR WYOMING HOME

By the WHS Education Committee

Lilacs are perfect for our Wyoming Yards

Lilacs have long been associated with historic yards. For over 200 years it has been a North American tradition to plant a single lilac bush by the front door where its sweet fragrance can be enjoyed and its blossoms catch the eyes of guests and travelers.

The common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) was the first flowering shrub imported to North America after the rose and is the preferred lilac for historic yards. It's a deciduous shrub that grows to 15 feet and bears large, loose, irregular clusters of lavender blossoms for two weeks each spring. Another historic choice is the Jasmine or Persian lilac (*Syringa persica*), that was introduced about 1753. The Persian lilac is the smallest of lilacs, reaching just 6 feet and is a good choice for smaller spaces. It blooms on branches covered with small, scented, pale flower clusters.



Tips for abundant lilacs:

\* Lilacs grow best in slightly alkaline, well drained soil that receives five hours of sun a day.

\* Plant lilacs just outside the front entrance to reinforce a connection to the rural past.

\* Use lilacs as part of a hedge or screen where space permits. During Victorian times it was common to have a shrubbery, a planting of lilacs and other shrubs to mark the edge of a lawn.

\* To encourage blooms, remove spent flowers. Prune just after blooming to keep shrubs in shape. Cut out the oldest wood and allow new shoots to grow.

\* Don't over fertilize lilacs. You'll get leafy growth instead of blossoms.

\* Good companion flowers come from heirloom plants that bloom at the same time as lilacs; include tulips, iris and/or peonies.

\* An overgrown lilac shrub can be gradually reduced in height without sacrificing all the blooms. Rejuvenate your shrub by pruning in winter when you can see the stems. Cut out one-third of the largest, oldest stems and small shoots the first winter. The second year, cut out another third, in year three, remove the last third.



The Wyoming Historical Society  
800 Oak Street, Lower Level  
Wyoming OH 45215

Attend the April 23rd meeting  
and learn about Rookwood Pottery!

### **A GEOLOGICAL FACT FINDING MISSION...Glenn Lewis**

- Before any glaciers moved into Ohio and Northern Kentucky, the Ohio River flowed north. Drainage from the south, east and west of Hamilton County flowed northward through the Little Miami and Great Miami Rivers to Hamilton. There they joined as one river and continued north, then west to eventually drain into the Mississippi River.
- Research shows Hartwell was the southern most point reached in Ohio by the Wisconsinan Glacier. It was the last of the glaciers, approximately 19,500 years ago. As it retreated, melt water created today's east branch of the Mill Creek and carved the gorge in Sharon Woods Park. The gorge may be viewed from adjacent park trails.
- In 1990 a 75 pound mastodon jaw bone was found by two young men searching for golf balls in the east branch of the Mill Creek near the Evendale-Reading border.
- Three Indian Mounds are about one mile north of Wyoming in Glenwood Gardens.
- Fort Ancient was built by the Hopewell people but was never occupied by them. Later the "Fort Ancient" people did settle there from AD1000 to AD1650. Most anthropologists believe the Fort Ancients may have been the ancestors of the Shawnee people. This culture was similar to that of the people in Mexico, like the Aztecs and Mayans. Possibly some natives emigrated from there to Ohio.
- Bloody Run, a tributary of the Mill Creek, was named for a scalped soldier found lying in the stream located between Elmwood Place and St. Bernard on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1797.