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# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Wyoming Historical Society  
800 Oak Avenue  
Wyoming OH 45215  
513.842.1383  
History@Wyoming.oh.us  
Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00  
or by appointment.

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## **FEBRUARY 18TH PROGRAM**

Please join the Wyoming Historical Society for a program on Thursday, February 18th at 7pm at the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming, 225 Wyoming Avenue. Linda Pumphrey, former Curator of the Historical Mountain Mist Corporate Quilt Collection and Co-President of The Alliance for American Quilts, will speak about the Lockland-based Stearns & Foster Company, which revolutionized the cotton wadding and batting industry in the late 19th century. Her presentation will include insight into the history of the Stearns family of Wyoming, a family that was a major player in the development and growth of Wyoming. For additional information, please contact Glenn Lewis at 513-821-1361.

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER... Sherry Sheffield**

We are very busy at headquarters. When winter hits activities move indoors and people think of the historical society. Just last week we had 4 email research requests. One involved the Josiah Kirby Family that lived on Oliver Road. We were able to provide documented information linking the Eli Lilly Family with the Kirby Family.

Adam Beard's two Vermont 3rd grade history classes are working on interpretations of Wyoming History. You will be invited to an open house at Vermont in April to see their work and hopefully learn more about your village. Yes, some of us still, lovingly, call it a Village!

If you are looking for a project, we have a need for someone who is willing to scan hundreds of photos for us. We will provide the computer, scanner, some instruction and the place. All you need is the time.

Our thanks to Evelyn Perkins, Tri-County Press writer, for her great article on the Wyoming Historical Society. The article and photo appeared in the December 9th edition of the newspaper. Evelyn visits us on occasion for research.

And finally, our thanks to Linda Pumphrey, our February speaker, who has given us several Stearns & Foster batting wrapper printing plates. These will be on display at the February 18th program. We've also added a hundred year medallion to our Stearns & Foster collection courtesy of Tom Grau and a brick from the current tear down in Lockland!

## **MARCH 21ST PROGRAM**

On Sunday, March 21st, the Wyoming Historical Society will sponsor a presentation by Walter E. Langsam, architectural historian and historic preservation consultant. He will discuss the veritable museum of architecture constructed in Wyoming in the last century and a half. The program will begin at 2 pm at the Wyoming Civic Center, 1 Worthington Ave, at the corner of Springfield Pike. For additional information, please contact Glenn Lewis at 513-821-1361.

# CARING FOR YOUR WYOMING HOME

Prepared by Sue Wilson and the WHS Education Committee

Is that plaster crack getting bigger or not?

Have you noticed a plaster crack in your home? The general guide is that a hairline crack of 1/16th of an inch is not a problem. Wider cracks can indicate structural stress and should be monitored for continued movement. An inch wide crack indicates a serious problem that should be assessed by a structural engineer.

Cracks that are growing wider or longer indicate that you should take action. The first thing you should do is to confirm that the crack is changing size by keeping a photo record or by drawing parallel lines on either side of the crack and periodically measuring the distance between the lines. If you repair a crack but find that it reappears, that's another sign that your house needs attention.

Building movement is the greatest cause of interior plaster cracks. Figure out what is causing the building to move. Structural problems could be caused by :

- \* settling of the building,
- \* decay of material (caused by aging or moisture),
- \* workers might have removed a section of the structure or compromised it by notching or drilling through supports, or
- \* adding additional weight to the building, such as an addition or a new (heavier) roof, such as slate.

Cracks in the foundation, crooked windows or doors are other indicators of serious structural problems. Stress cracks frequently begin at openings, such as windows or doorways and often are diagonal in direction.

Cracks can be caused by problems other than structural movement, such as a poor plaster application or water problems. Water problems typically produce a puffy or blistered area. Any of these causes should be repaired before you restore the plaster.

## AUDIO-VIDEO INTERVIEWS

In May we will again be partnering with the junior AP History class at the high school to do another round of oral interviews. If you know someone who lived in or grew up in Wyoming and loves to talk about the 'good old days' we would like to know who they are. If they currently live in the Wyoming area we might be able to utilize their knowledge for these interviews. Last years interviewees were: Marie Hollman Burks, Eleanor Lortz, Troy Banks, Bill Schuchardt, Annie Lou Helmsderfer and Joe Westendorf.

And since I mentioned Eleanor Lortz...this long time society member turned 99 the end of January. Our congratulations and best wishes.

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## CURIOSITY REMAINS ALIVE TODAY...Glenn Lewis

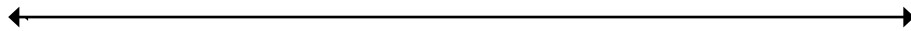
Americans celebrate their heritage in many ways. National holidays commemorate our shared history and historical societies and museums are in nearly every state and county. The Daughters of the American Revolution honor their ancestral ties to our nation's founders, and the Mayflower Society looks to even deeper roots. Scandinavian Americans vie with Italian Americans over who should get the credit for discovering America – Leif Eriksson or Christopher Columbus. But often lost in all the displays of national pomp, aristocratic pride, or ethnic heritage is the fact that the story of America does not open in AD 1000, 1492, or 1776; and Ohio's history does not begin in 1803. Native American people shared this land with mastodons more than 10,000 years before George Washington was born. They were the first to explore our hills and valleys and the first to till our fields. Their achievements are as much a part of humanity's odyssey as are the voyages of Leif Eriksson, Christopher Columbus, and Neil Armstrong.

The Native American saga was not recorded in any chronicle. It is written in the soil with letters of shivered flint, broken pottery, charred seeds, and mounds of earth. It takes an archaeologist to read that obscure alphabet and translate the story for modern readers.

The First Ohioans brought with them an Ice Age experience. They could make fire, knap stone into tools, hunt game, make shelter, and clothe themselves. Ohio's Native American ancestors explored and settled into their new homeland. Moving along the endless river roadways, they eventually exploited nearly all of Ohio's varied habitats. Spreading out the risk and buffering themselves against the failure of any particular plant or animal species, the Archaic people of Ohio developed increasingly intensive strategies of harvesting native plant crops, presaging the horticultural economies that would follow. As their population increased, native Ohioans exchanged resources over long distances and learned to store food for the future. They captured their wisdom of the heavens in powerful monuments and daily architecture. They buried their dead with exquisite works of art, crafted of exotic materials exchanged across vast distance – volcanic glass from Yellowstone, copper from the Great Lakes, mica from the Carolinas and sharks' teeth from the gulf. For a thousand generations, Ohio's native people wove a story of ingenuity, enterprise, and above all, survival.

The earliest Europeans who explored Ohio knew nothing of this dramatic history. As the newcomers filtered across the landscape, they became increasingly curious about the earliest Ohioans. Who were they? Where did they come from? And what became of them? The mystery deepened with each new discovery of the ancient monuments found throughout the state. That curiosity remains alive today.

Source: OHIO ARCHAEOLOGY, by Bradley T. Lepper, Curator of Archaeology, The Ohio Historical Society.



### JOINING THE BOARD IS: Betsy Bazell



Betsy Bazell is back! A forty year resident of Wyoming this retired teacher is active in so many areas. She attended Agnes Scott College before graduating from UC then earned a Master's in American History there. She taught AP American History at Woodward and Sycamore High Schools before becoming department chair of Social Studies at the latter. When she retired she was hired by College Board/Educational Testing Services to serve on the national test development committee for American History and developed and led workshops for AP teachers throughout the Midwest.

Her life outside history is rich in travel having visited every continent except Antarctica. She spends an inordinate amount of time reading and belongs to two book clubs. She is a loyal fan of the Cincinnati symphony, the Cincinnati Opera and loves visiting museums.

Betsy first became interested in history through a fantastic Social Studies teacher in 7th & 8th grade at Concord School in Kenwood. "She not only made me want to immerse myself in history books, Betsy said, but also encouraged me to become a history teacher." "I am very happy to have been asked to rejoin the Board. I guess I just cannot get enough of my first love...American History... in this case, Wyoming history."

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

SEE YOU ON FEBRUARY 18TH

## WHAT YOU MISSED AT THE MAIN LIBRARY



The Main (downtown) library recently had a very large display of high school football in the Cincinnati area. Your historical society lent them pendants, a beanie, and some athletic letters for the “Wyoming” part of the display. Many schools were represented as were players that went on to the NFL. Wyoming graduates Bob Goodridge and Ahmed Plummer were among those that were highlighted.

