

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

January 2026

A Publication of the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming History Museum

HARRIET BEECHER STOWE January 8th

For almost 20 years, Harriet Beecher Stowe and her family lived and worked in Cincinnati - a bustling community on the border between slave and free America. Here, young Harriet would enter the anti-slavery debate publicly and engage in the workings of the Underground Railroad. Drawing from the many stories and events she heard about or experienced during her years in Cincinnati, she would build the foundation for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, published in 1851 and considered one of the most important and consequential works of American literature to this day.



**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.

www.WyomingHistoricalSociety.com



Wyoming History Museum

A Unique and rewarding
place to visit.

Member of:
Ohio Local History Alliance
American Association for State and
Local History,
Ohio History Connection

Wyoming Historical Society
is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit
corporation.

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Welcome new Business Member...

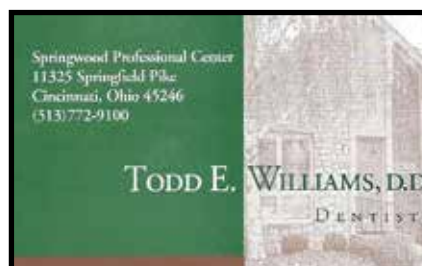
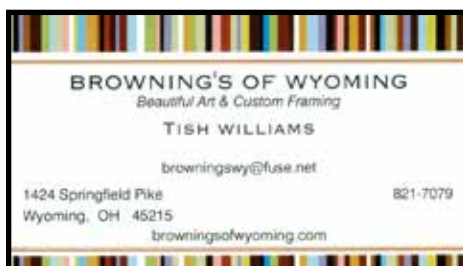
SHAW TREE SURGEONS

Shaw Tree Surgeons was founded in 1971 by David Shaw upon his return from serving in the U. S. Marines in Vietnam. Shaw Tree Surgeons is a small concise elite tree care and removal company with two ISA Certified Arborists. They specialize in diagnosis, treatment, maintenance and planting of superior trees and stands of trees. Shaw is fully insured and ready to handle all your tree needs.



SUE LEWIS, SIBCY-CLINE

In the industry, Sue is known for her commitment to clients and their specific needs. In fact, the majority of her business derives from referrals or the return of past clientele. Sue, a real estate professional, focuses her services on analyzing marketing strategies for maximum exposure and negotiating sales to achieve the best possible price.





-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR --
REMAINING PROGRAMS FOR
THE 2025-2026 YEAR

March 12, 2026

Bill Schierenbeck - History of Spreen's Corner

April 9, 2026

Amy Pursley - Wyoming's Street Names II

May 7, 2026

Thea Tjepkema - Under One Roof: The African
American Experience in Music Hall

2026 Wyoming Historical Society

OFFICERS:

Amy Pursley, President
David Savage, Vice-President
Tom Bond, Treasurer
Kevin Grace, Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Anne Black	Joe Hornsby	Sherry Sheffield
Bette Matkowski	Brian Pitman	Newsletter Editor
David Steed	Ann Verhaeghe	Historian/Accessionist/
Jim Walton	Andrea Zeidler	Archivist

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Access Audio	Deborah Allsop
Betsy Bazell	Anne Black
Tom Bond	Jim Briggs
Sheri & Bryant Callaghan	Tom & Susan Handley
Old School Craftsman	Joe & Nikki Hornsby
Ethan & Susan Pagliaro	Brian Pitman
Tony & Cathy Ramstetter	Ann Ruchhoft
Jennifer Sauers	John Sears
Sherry Sheffield	Kitty & Todd Williams
Michael & Marcia Wasson	Megan Wasson

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Jennifer Greenwald Sauers and Ann Ruchhoft

NEW MEMBERS

Evelien Woolard
Business Member - Shaw Tree Surgeons (David & Francie Shaw)

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: Individual \$25, Family \$50, Business \$75, Lifetime \$500. High school and college students are free. New members joining after September will be credited through December of the following year. New members please send your check made out to Wyoming Historical Society, with your name, address, phone and email and we will handle the rest. 800 Oak Avenue, Wyoming, OH 45215. Thank you.

JOINING THE BOARD IS: **Bette Matkowski**

Bette Matkowski is a retired college and university educator who was born and raised in Barberton, Ohio. Her husband Joe is also a retired educator, raised in Barberton as well. Both graduated from Ohio colleges. Their careers took them to Vermont and Colorado, but they returned to Ohio in 2018, first to East Walnut Hills, to be near their daughter's family, especially their grandsons. They moved to Wyoming in 2022. Joe is an avid skier, and Bette is a buyer and seller of rare books and other vintage items.



JOINING THE BOARD IS: **David Steed**



David and his wife, Michelle, have lived in Wyoming for 21 years. They have two sons who attended the Wyoming Schools. David grew up in Hamilton, OH and graduated from The Ohio State University, where his sons now attend. David has been in the music business for 38 years, working as a tour manager for 10 of those years. He currently produces concerts and events downtown at the Heritage Bank Center. He is an avid listener of audio books with an interest in history and biographies. He is a lifelong Reds fan and enjoys playing golf whenever he can, mostly at the Wyoming Golf Club.

JOINING THE BOARD IS: **Jim Walton**

Jim Walton happily returns to our board ready to continue handling our media presence. Jim, a Wyoming resident since 1977, is a 1982 Graduate of Wyoming High School. His family roots go back to his great-grandfather who was the Station Master of the Lockland-Wyoming Train Depot (now Crescent Park). A graphic designer by trade, Jim's 'hobby' is remodeling the homes he has owned. His current residence is the fourth where he has worked his magic.

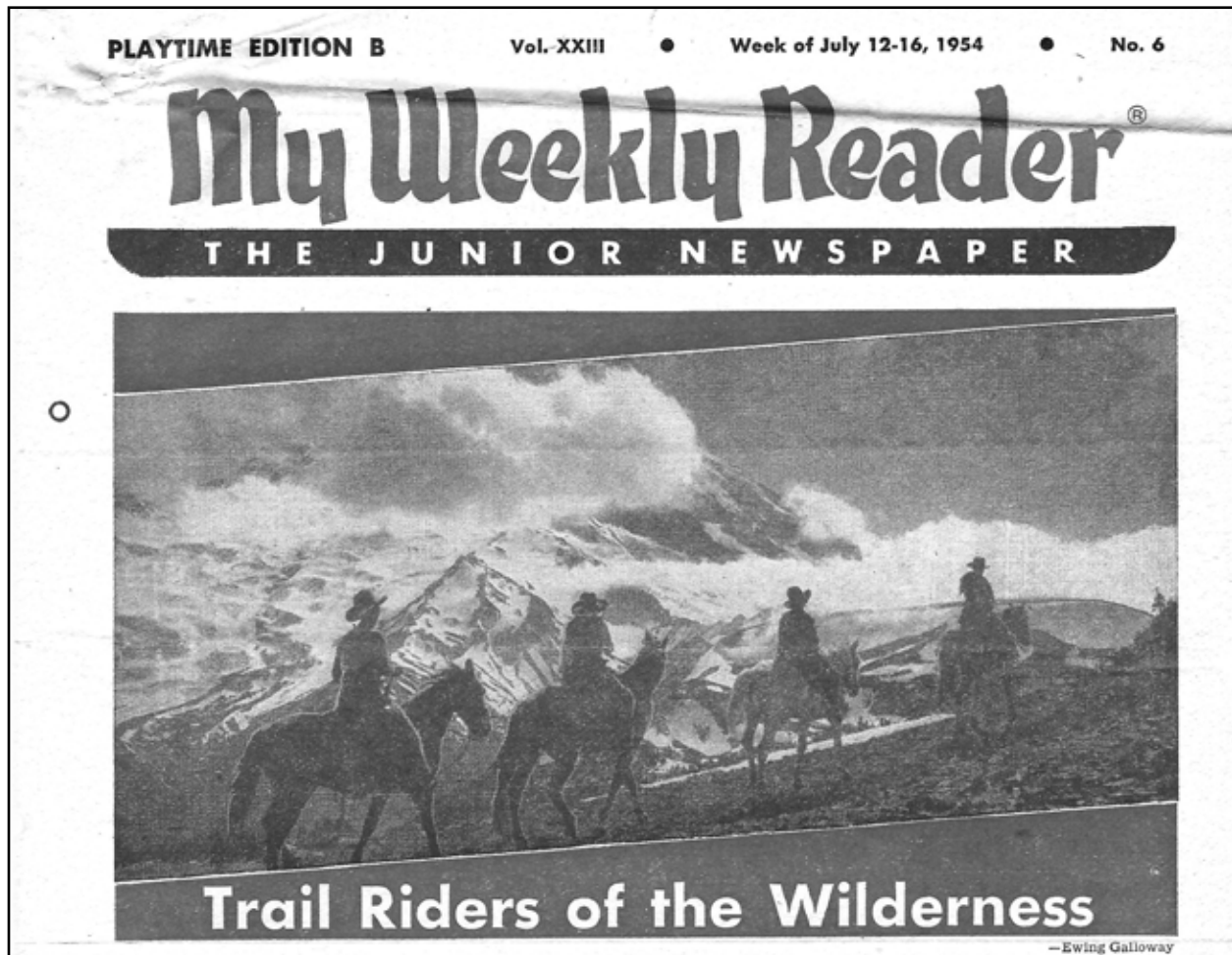


HOLIDAY ONE STOP SHOP...

A big thank you to Ann Verhaeghe, Amy Pursley, David Steed and Jim Walton for working the Historical booth at the Holiday One Stop Shop on December 6th at the Civic Center. We appreciate your help.

MY WEEKLY READER

Did you have *My Weekly Reader* newspapers in your primary school? Wyoming sure did and, thanks to Keith Kleespies, we had a chance to revisit several of them from 1954. *My Weekly Reader* started in 1928, was merged with and became part of *Scholastic* in 2012.



Bob Harris remembers the ride he took into the wilderness in the West last summer. He still talks about it. These trips may be taken every year.

"We were 'Trail Riders of the Wilderness.' That is what the American Forestry Association calls the trips."

"There were 25 riders. We had two guides, two cooks, and 55 horses and mules. We rode beside a snow-covered mountain, past icy streams, and deep into the forest. A guide rode ahead."

"Now and then we saw deer. They stood and watched us. There were signs of elk, and once we saw a bear in a berry patch."

"At night, we stopped before dark. The cooks prepared ham and other food. 'Ride hard and eat large,' is what they said. And I really did 'eat large.'"

"Then we 'turned in.' Each of us had blankets in our bed roll. We slept in small tents."

"Last call for breakfast came at 6:30. We had to have our beds rolled up by 7 a.m. We washed the dishes, too."

"The trip lasted ten days. I could not have gone if I had not been healthy and able to ride horseback. A doctor was with us in case of an accident. There were no accidents."

SNOW...SNOW...SNOW....



Our Business District. If you stand on Wyoming Avenue at Wyoming Automotive and look up the north side of the business district, this is what you would have seen in 1936. Who would have guessed we would have to wait 90 years to see the bar stools outside of what is now The Delmonico!



Learn your Wyoming history in bits and pieces. These and many more historical graphics can be found on our web site and FaceBook page.

www.wyominghistoricalsociety.com

or

on FaceBook:
Wyoming Historical Society



WYOMING MIDDLE SCHOOL ICONOGRAPHY...AMY PURSLEY

Have you ever noticed the engravings on the front of the Middle School? Above the Wyoming Avenue entrance to the Middle School are three circular medallions. Above each of the side entrances on Wyoming Avenue are a list of three values.

The center medallion features a shield with vertical stripes, two stars and an axe in the center. When examined in a school context, these symbols can represent a united community (vertical stripes) protected (shield) by principles of truth (stars) and order (axe). They can also be indicative of institutional stability or as a guardian of civic ideals. All of this harkens to the three values listed above the eastern side doors: Character, Citizenship, Loyalty.

The symbol on the medallion left of center depicts two crossed quill pens in front of an open scroll. These images convey scholarship, literacy and the creation of knowledge. The image on the medallion right of center is a lyre with a torch in the center which often symbolizes the arts and enlightenment. The three words listed above the western side doors (Youth, Knowledge, Health) expand on these images and overtly state the values important to the school at the time it was built in 1928.



The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215

PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Amy Pursley



In 2026, two very important anniversaries will intersect. Not only will we celebrate our country's 250th birthday, but we will also celebrate Wyoming's 75th birthday as a city! There's never been a better time to join or renew your membership with the Wyoming Historical Society to stay on top of all the festivities scheduled for the momentous year ahead. We've also made membership enrollment easier than ever. Go to our new website: WyomingHistoricalSociety.com and use the "Membership" tab to sign up and pay electronically. While you're there, check out our upcoming events, merchandise offerings and our newly added historic map collection. You can also stay in touch with us on Facebook (search Wyoming Historical Society). There we feature "On This Day In Wyoming", "Wyoming Then and Now", and "Wyoming By The Year" fun facts.

Lastly, we are actively working to increase our collection of historic photos of Wyoming. Do you have any to share? If so, you can upload them electronically via our website using the "Contact" tab. Alternatively, you can email them to us at history@wyomingohio.gov. Or you can bring them to our office where we can digitally scan them for you. Our office is open on Tuesdays from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm. However, the office will be closed on December 23 and 30 for the upcoming holidays. All of us at the Wyoming Historical Society hope your holidays are filled with warmth and joy.