

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Summer 2025

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS... PROGRAMS FOR THE COMING YEAR

September 25 Peter Bronson

Formerly of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, Bronson is author of *Promised Land: How the Midwest Was Won*. Learn what the early settlers went through to make this place our home.

November 13 Amy Hunter

Amy will talk about the history of the Mercantile Library and Wyoming's involvement.

January 8 Rebecca Johnson

Wyoming resident Rebecca Johnson catches us up on the life and times of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

March 12 Bill Schierenbeck

Wyoming resident Bill Schierenbeck reprises his presentation with updates on the History of Spreen's Corner, Wyoming Avenue and Springfield Pike.

April 9 Amy Pursley

Historical Society President, Amy Pursley, continues with the history of the names of many more Wyoming Streets.

**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 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



ELLEN MICHAEL

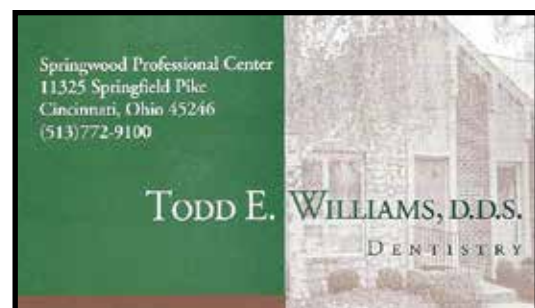
As a third-generation resident of Wyoming, Ellen Michael is deeply rooted in the community and proud to sponsor the Wyoming Historical Society. A graduate of Wyoming High School and the University of Cincinnati, she is passionate about our unique neighborhood, serving in volunteer roles throughout Wyoming City Schools, as a youth softball coach, and with JWC, where she served as president.

Ellen is fascinated by the history of each home in Wyoming and loves that the Historical Society helps families like hers connect to the stories of the community as they make this wonderful village their home. An elite REALTOR(R) Alliance of Greater Cincinnati Circle of Excellence award winner since 2019, Ellen looks forward to connecting many more families to the beautiful and storied homes of Wyoming! Visit her listings at <https://emichael.agents.sibcycline.com/> or contact her for more information at emichael@sibcycline.com.



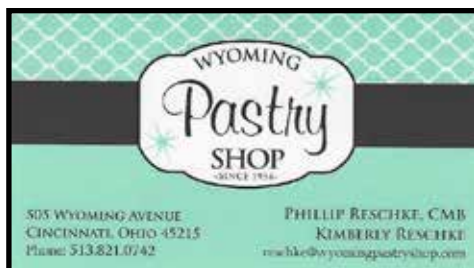
TODD WILLIAMS

A Wyoming resident, Dr. Williams' goal is to deliver the highest quality dental care possible. His experience in dentistry is coupled with a genuine concern for his patients. They have a dedicated team of trained professionals who will provide you with the honest and individualized attention you deserve. We strive to treat you promptly and with the highest possible comfort. Dr. Williams provides dental care for all ages and uses the latest technology to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of your dental needs. He stays current in dentistry by taking numerous continuing education courses -- far exceeding the state's requirements for dentists.





BUSINESS MEMBERS (CONTINUED)



2025 Wyoming Historical Society

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David Savage, Vice-President
Tom Bond, Treasurer
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Sherry Sheffield	Kitty & Todd Williams
Michael & Marcia Wasson	Megan Wasson

NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Kathy Low Tara Pease
Amy & Jonathan Cheeks
Joe Brinkman
Brian & Karen Benhase

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.

ROBERT MCGINNIS.....

Wyoming has been the home of a number of artists. Some of those artists were prolific, well known and art was their life. Others dabbled in it as a vocation or hobby. Some of the names of artists who called Wyoming home are Chris Payne, Stanford Brooks, Mary Stonebarger McMath, Bill Purdom, Edith McKee Harper, Jill Bruce Pease, Don Dennis, Helen Leonard Haberstroh and Jim Effler.

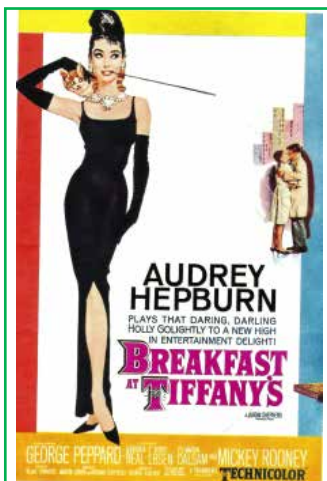
An important and most prolific of these is Bob McGinnis who passed away in March at the age of 99. He was a 1943 graduate of Wyoming High School. Your Historical Society is lucky enough to have in its museum a print of the movie poster Bob did for the 1956 film "The Searchers" starring John Wayne. It is titled "Ethan".

The following was written by fellow artist Chris (C. F.) Payne (Wyoming Class of 1972) who had the honor of participating in Bob's induction into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame.



Bob McGinnis

On March 10th, 2025 America lost an art icon. Robert "Bob" McGinnis passed away at his home in Connecticut. I am not sure just how many folks in Wyoming or in America really know just how great of an artist Bob McGinnis was. It is in part because he was primarily known as an illustrator and illustrators rarely have their art represented in "Art Museums." I can call out much of his art and many of you would know it. Still, it is called illustration. It has been many years since he stepped away from the many prestigious and highly visible assignments to pursue his personal art sold through his gallery. For many of his fans, Bob continued to create and paint great art for nearly all of his 99 years. Bob McGinnis was inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame in 1993. In my humble opinion about 15 years later than it should have been.



Breakfast at Tiffany's

For more than 30 years Bob created hundreds of book covers for authors like Mike Shayne and Erle Stanley Gardner when paperback novels were widely popular. He also created some of the most iconic movie posters from the 1960's and 1970's. To call out a few of his best movie posters, you should remember, Audrey Hepburn's "Breakfast At Tiffany's", James Bond's "Thunderball", "Casino Royale", "You Only Live Twice", Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple and Jane Fonda's "Barbarella."



"Ethan"

McGinnis continued

When I met Bob and presented his Hall of Fame induction at the Society of Illustrators, I learned that he was not just a great illustrator. Bob McGinnis was one of Wyoming High School's great athletes. He also played tackle for the 1944 undefeated Ohio State Buckeyes. He served in the Merchant Marines the final years of WWII. I found him to be a most humble and gracious man. He just could not believe we were inducting him in the SOI Hall of Fame. He was so well deserving of the honor and I was proud to be a small part of his night.



Thunderball



Cleopatra



The Odd Couple



Stay Away, Joe

NOTE: Bob McGinnis corresponded with your Historical Society a number of times in the past eight years. Often he would copy an article from our newsletter and write his memories of the article subject. He truly loved Wyoming. His letters and notes are a treasured part of the archives of your Historical Society.

GO STRAIGHT TO THE WYOMING PASTRY SHOP....



Found in the walls of a house on West Hill Lane. Thank you Kara Huddleston.

JOEL HEALY - JUNIOR AWARD WINNER



For a number of years now your Wyoming Historical Society has been presenting a cash award to a Wyoming High School Junior, selected by the Social Studies department faculty, in recognition of his/her academic achievement, citizenship and scholarship in Advanced Placement American History. This monetary award will help them defray the cost of applying to colleges.

This year's award was presented to Joel Healy. He is a member of National Honor Society and deeply involved in Model United Nations for the last three years. Joel has also been involved in the Wyoming Science and Technology Camp as a counselor and served an internship at the University of Cincinnati under history professor Anne Delano Steinert.

On Undergraduate Honors Night, Joel was not only presented with our award but was honored by the Sons of the American Revolution. He had entered the George S. & Stella M. Knight Essay Contest. His essay on the Oneida Nation in the American Revolution had previously come in first at the SAR Cincinnati Chapter, then first in Ohio and finally, it was the national first place winner which was announced that night. Joel is planning on pursuing a history degree at a liberal arts school.

BLAIR Bricks ... Joe Hornsby

Our driveway at 209 Worthington Ave. was recently pictured in the Historic Preservation Commission's revised Design Guidelines for Historic Properties publication, noting: Brick Driveways - "Once common in The Village, with only a few surviving".

In looking for markings, we found a brick on the very corner edge covered in dirt, stones, and grass that read "BLAIR" with a box formed around it, prompting a new subject of historic interest.

In Southwestern Clermont County, just north of New Richmond, OH was a settlement known as Blairsville. In 1874, Capt. J. Milton Blair joined his father, John Blair, who purchased thirty acres of land known for its superior quality clay soil, extending to a depth of twenty-five feet. From this clay, the Blairs established an extensive, "first of its kind in the West" plant for moulding and firing brick by steam powered machinery.

Blair Brick advertisement



Continued from previous page

This facility (which would later become the Beckjord Power Plant) produced millions of bricks sent on barges downriver to Cincinnati and locations all over the region to be used in constructing homes, buildings, schools, roads, driveways, and sewers. Earning a solid reputation among builders, the company added another production location in Columbia Township on the Little Miami Railway which allowed even wider distribution, with annual capacity of both plants reaching 40 million bricks and 250 employees.

Notably, Blair Bricks were used in constructing tunnel arches on the Cincinnati Southern Railway and even Cincinnati Music Hall! The New England influence of weatherboard Victorian homes in Wyoming, however, made George Stearns' Lockland Lumber Company a prevalent choice here as opposed to exterior brick otherwise common in Southwestern Ohio.

Steam powered molding machines allowed stiffer clay to be used forming a more durable brick. Eventually red color, ochre, became common in production by adding iron oxide to the moulding sand giving the bricks a distinct deep earthly red appeal, becoming known as "Blair Schoolhouse Bricks".



To great surprise, Capt. J. Milton Blair lived right here in Wyoming and had three children who graduated from Wyoming High School. He was a member of the Wyoming School Board and was generally in demand among his fellow citizens as an active and useful man in positions of public trust. Blair was the last surviving charter member of the Ohio Commandery of the Loyal Legion when he died in 1923, which also included President Rutherford B. Hayes. In 1896-1897, he was president of the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.

Pictures: Above Blair Bricks.
Below the driveway at 209
Worthington where Blair bricks
were found.



The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215

PRESIDENT'S LETTER... *Amy Pursley*



Wyoming Historical Society launched a brand new website in May. Be sure to check it out at wyominghistoricalsociety.com. Our past president, Jim Walton, put a great deal of time and effort into creating an amazing new website. You'll find historic photos, upcoming events, our latest newsletters and a wealth of information pertaining to Wyoming's history. By popular demand, we can now accept membership payments online via the "Contribute" tab on the website. Check it out and let us know how you like it.



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Let us know what you think.

