

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

April 2026

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



APRIL 9, 2026



STREET NAMES II

The City of Wyoming has exactly 128 public streets. But how did these streets get their names? Last year, Amy Pursley covered several street name origins, but there are a lot more to cover. Join us on Thursday, April 9 at 7pm at the Civic Center and be among the first to own her newly released book: *Wyoming Street Names & Their Stories*. Books will be available for purchase for \$20 at the program.



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

FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS



www.wyominghistoricalsociety.com

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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.

OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS

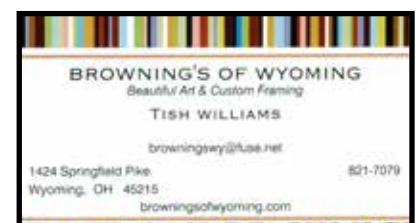
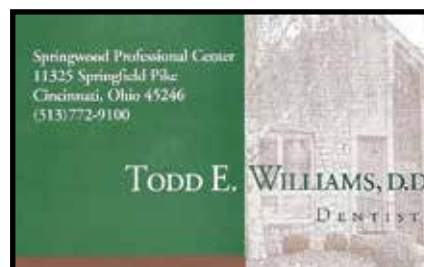
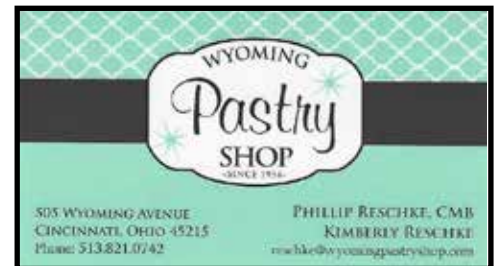


OLD SCHOOL CRAFTSMAN

Have the desire to remodel, repair or add on? Master Craftsman Brent W. Sears of Old School Craftsman is a full-service General Contractor and will guide you through all phases of your special project. Watch your dreams come true. "It is with extreme pride that I can build for you - with my hands; the finest of everything," says Brent. Check out his work on the double porches when you drive by 22 Wyoming Ave., and his website www.oldschoolcraftsman.me for more details, 513-615-1492.

STEVE TONNE "THE PAINTER"

Steve Tonne paints homes, inside and out, with high quality craftsmanship and products. Over the years, the business has grown by good old-fashioned word of mouth. They pride themselves on a job well done, and folks seem to agree because they are a small business that grows mostly by referral. Ask your neighbors or start counting our Steve Tonne "The Painter" white yard signs – you'll see that they are painting the exteriors and interiors of Wyoming area homes.



-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR --
REMAINING PROGRAM
2025-2026 YEAR

May 7, 2026

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

2026 Wyoming Historical Society

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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.

MEET HARRIS ROSEDALE...

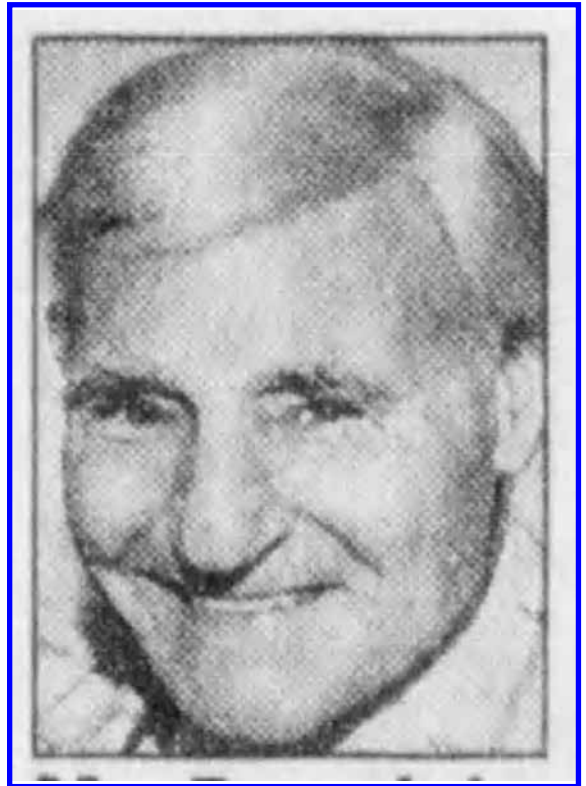
Harris Rosedale's dancing career began by sweeping floors at the Cincinnati Ballet. Within a few short years, he was one of their lead performers. He began teaching others to dance and opened his own studio, the Rosedale Dance Academy. He also started hosting the WKRC Amateur Hour, a radio program that aired on Sundays, featuring local singing talent.

While World War II interrupted most men's careers, Rosedale used his service time as a launch pad. He was the base recreational director at Will Roger Field in Oklahoma and was later assigned to Tokyo, Japan to be part of a special services entertainment unit performing shows for U.S. troops. He claimed his greatest military achievement was teaching native Japanese dancers to "boogie."

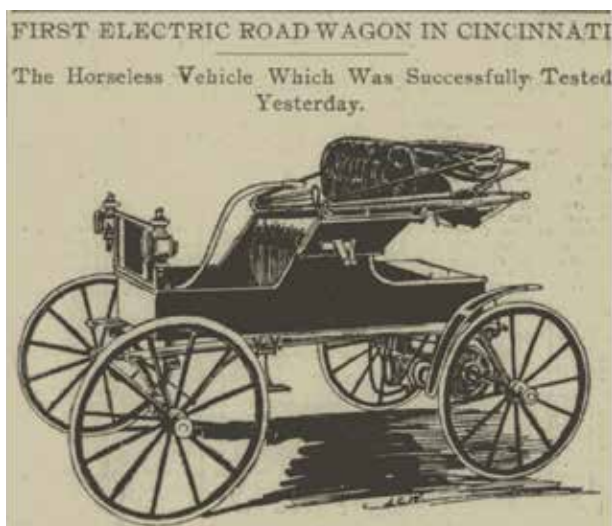
During his military absence, Harris' wife, Selma Roberta Rosedale, emceed the radio show to keep it running on the air. After the war, Harris took the radio show to television. The variety show aired on W8XCT, Crosley Broadcasting's experimental TV station that aired from the top of the Carew Tower. This station would later become WLWT. This was the beginning of a decades-long career hosting talent shows on local television.

His dance teaching career didn't slow down until he and Selma moved to Florida in the 1990s for retirement. They both passed away there in 2006. Harris was 97 years old when he died. Harris' tombstone reads "He made others happy all the days of his life."

Harris and Selma lived at 333 Hilltop Lane from 1960 to 1962.



Harris Rosedale



WYOMING'S FIRST CAR...

The first non-electric car in Wyoming was thought to be owned by Charles L. Warriner who worked for the Big Four Railroad and lived at what is now 30 Reily Road. However, when he lived there in the late 1800's - early 1900's the address was 609 Springfield Pike. That address is now the home of a condo building but it was once Warriner's front yard!!

See page 6 for an article on the electric car pictured on the left.

PRETTIEST PAINTED PLACES...David Savage

The process began in the Spring of 1977 when my wife and life companion, Judy, saw a story in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* about an organization, the Paint Quality Institute, that was sponsoring a competition to find "American's Prettiest Painted Places". She showed the article to me and said, "Wyoming could enter that contest! We have a lot of those lovely painted Victorian homes, especially in the Historic District."

After 2-3 microseconds of serious contemplation I said, "You're right! Let me look into it." I mentioned it to the City Manager, and she agreed that it would be a fine idea to send in an entry. She went on to suggest that I talk to the Chair of the Wyoming Beautification Committee to see if they would like to help put the entry together, that person gave me an enthusiastic "Yes!", and said that they would follow up to get more information about the contest and secure the official documents to accompany the submission of an entry.

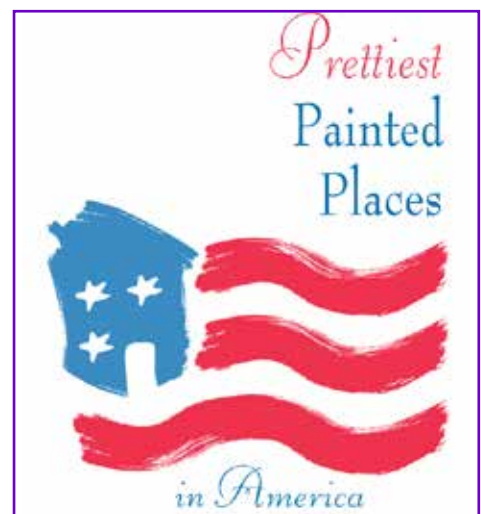
We learned that for the purposes of the competition the U.S. had been divided into six geographic regions and that five finalists would be selected from each region. Two winners in each region would then be selected based on an onsite visit by a team of judges from the sponsor.

So now we had the administration on board, and committee members to work on the details. I volunteered to help identify the houses to be featured for the entry and to take the necessary photographs. The committee members, using the files from the Wyoming Historical Society and talking to the current residents of the chosen houses, began documenting the various homes. I photographed the exteriors of the houses, working to get the best point of view and the most favorable lighting. And so, in May of that year the Nomination Form was sent off to be considered by the judges of the competition.

In June, we were notified that out of a total of 300 entries nationwide, Wyoming had been selected as one of five finalists in the Northeast region, and that the judging team would be visiting in July. When July came, they drove into town from the airport and exited I-75 at Galbraith Road, turned left, and then headed north when they reached Vine Street.

On a hot July day, the transition from the heat of Hartwell to the shady coolness of Springfield Pike in Wyoming is a very noticeable and refreshing change. One of the judges, Debbie Zimmer, said that they were impressed with Wyoming when they drove down Springfield Pike. "When we came in off the interstate, it was such a beautiful site. It's really a lovely, lovely feeling."

It must have been lovely, because in October the Paint Quality Institute announced that Wyoming, Ohio and Cape May, New Jersey were the winners in the Northeast Region. Thus, we became one of twelve cities in the country to be recognized as a National Winner and one of the Prettiest Painted Places in America. Judy was right!



THE SLOGAN....

Fire Prevention Slogan Is Adopted

A slogan for fire prevention submitted by Miss Patricia Jane Kienker, daughter of Mrs. Carl H. Kienker, 631 Burns avenue, Wyoming, and a junior at Wyoming High School, pleased the Fire Prevention Bureau of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce so much that it has been adopted as its 1941 national rallying cry.

The slogan is "Chaperone Your Cigaret; Don't Let It Go Out Alone." The report of Miss Kienker's success was made Friday by Fire Chief Houston to the Tri-County Cleanup, Paint and Beautify Committee of the Chambers of Commerce of Cincinnati and Kenton and Campbell counties in northern Kentucky.

In May of 1940, Miss Patricia Jane Kienker, a junior at Wyoming High School and resident of 631 Burns Avenue had the honor of having her slogan chosen by the Fire Prevention Bureau of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as its 1941 "national rallying cry." Her slogan was:

Chaperone Your Cigarette; Don't Let It Go Out Alone

Source: Cincinnati Post, 11 May 1940

HELP!

Check out our FaceBook page for more Wyoming History By The Year, On This Day and our new category Mysteries. Locations we can't identify and hope maybe you can.

The First Electric Vehicle in Cincinnati...Amy Pursley

The first electric vehicle in Cincinnati dates back farther than you might think. An 1899 article in the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* described the momentous event:

"The automobile tested yesterday is known as an electric road buggy. It differs in many respects from some of the horseless carriages that are in operation in other cities today. The storage batteries are in the bed of the buggy, and the motors are adjusted to the rear axle."

"A long handle that comes up from the floor of the buggy into a convenient place directs the vehicle. The lamps contain incandescent lights, supplied by the storage batteries.

"The trial trip yesterday...started from Sixth and Sycamore streets at 5:40 a.m., went up Gilbert avenue, through Eden Park, and on, via Madison pike, to a terminus on Grandin road. The distance was about twelve miles and was made in one hour, including several stops that were made to examine the machinery. The test was made without accident, and only one horse took fright at the horseless vehicle.

"The cost of the new invention is \$1,000; the expense of running the machine is at the rate of a cent a mile. The batteries are charged to run twenty-five miles, and can be recharged with any electric wire, the cost of which is 25 cents. Persons interested in automobiles who came to this city for the purpose of placing them on the market have met with drawbacks, as the hills of the city were too much for the machine. The trip yesterday settled this question thoroughly, as it was proved that the electric vehicle can climb hills at a rapid gait. It is claimed by the builders that a child can operate the vehicle."

(See page 4 for a photo)

THE THAYERS AND GROVE AVENUE...Amy Pursley

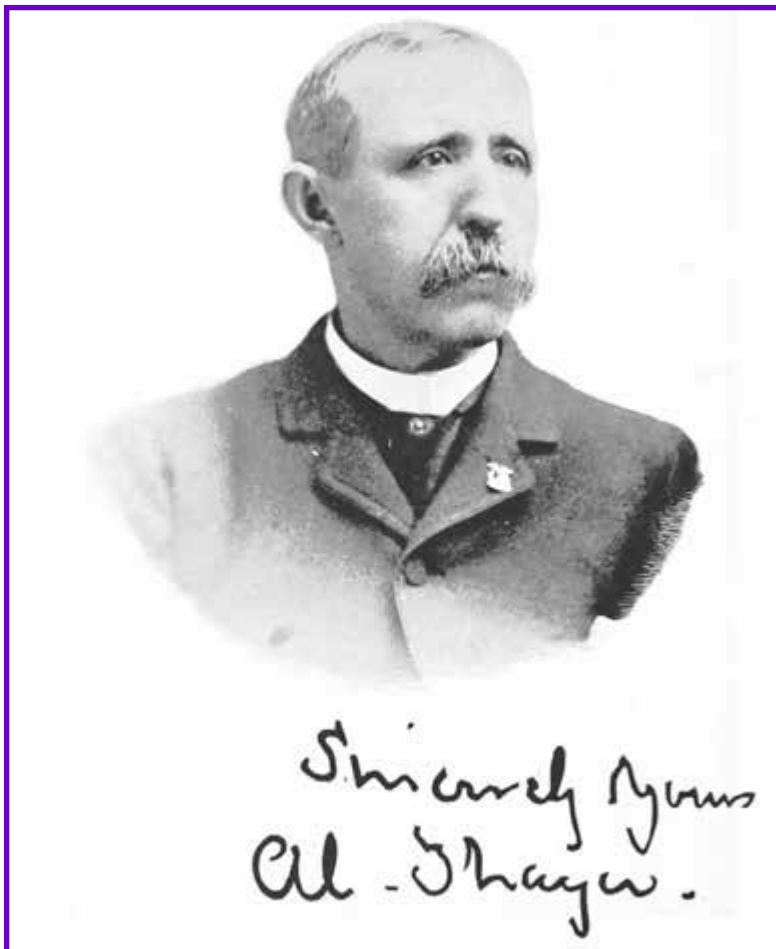
In 1891, Emma Thayer, wife of Atherton Thayer, bought the property at 227 Grove Avenue for \$5500. Emma Warden Thayer was the niece and adopted daughter of Judge R. B. Warden. Atherton "Al" Thayer was a lieutenant in the Union Army during the Civil War. He served in the Kentucky Infantry, Company I, Second Regiment, which was organized in the Pendleton neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio. He received a commendation for his service at the Battle of Shiloh.

After the war, he was employed as "theatrical man" for the Pennsylvania railroad in Cincinnati. Through this work, he made a lot of connections in the theatrical community, which led him to become the "dramatic editor" for the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Writing under the pen name of "Ah, There", Thayer's "Lobby Chatter" column ran for over twenty years. In 1895, he wrote a book titled "Ah There!: Pickings from Lobby Chatter in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*." The *Enquirer* said the book "pertains largely to dramatic incidents, but is interspersed with many bright bits of humor and short stories about prominent Cincinnatians and the dramatic profession at large." (*Cincinnati Enquirer*, 7 July 1895, p. 8) A copy of this book is in the reference collection at the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library.

But Thayer's most lasting legacy lies in his crucial role in founding the Cincinnati Elk's Lodge, a benevolent association. He was one of the three founding members who were initiated into the New York club (Lodge No. 1) and then immediately established the Cincinnati Club (Lodge No 5) in December of 1876. Because Mr. Thayer was the first of the three

founding members to be initiated, he is credited as being the father of the Ohio Herd of Elks. He was also chosen to be the first Exalted Ruler of Lodge No. 5. In 1927, the *Cincinnati Commercial Tribune* stated: "The Cincinnati Lodge was always characterized by its progressiveness and joviality."

In 1898, the Grove Avenue property was sold so that Thayer could pursue his last business venture: running a saloon on Sixth Avenue in New York City called "Cincinnati." Unfortunately, that business did not last long. He then moved to Butte, Montana to live with his son. Atherton Thayer passed away there in 1907.



THE LONG AND SHORT OF WYOMING'S STREETS?

What would you say are the longest and the shortest streets in Wyoming. The answer will not surprise you. Springfield Pike is the longest and Grove Court the shortest.

The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215

PRESIDENT'S LETTER... Amy Pursley

The Wyoming Historical Society helped me accomplish something I never thought I would do. With the encouragement of so many of my colleagues here,



I wrote a book. I never had the motivation or interest to pursue anything like this in the past. But this organization exposed me to such interesting content and a bevy of inquisitive minds that encouraged me to keep finding more. Thank you to everyone who kept this organization moving forward for over 40 years. I've definitely been a huge beneficiary of all of these efforts.

