

THE HISTORICAL RECORD

March 2025

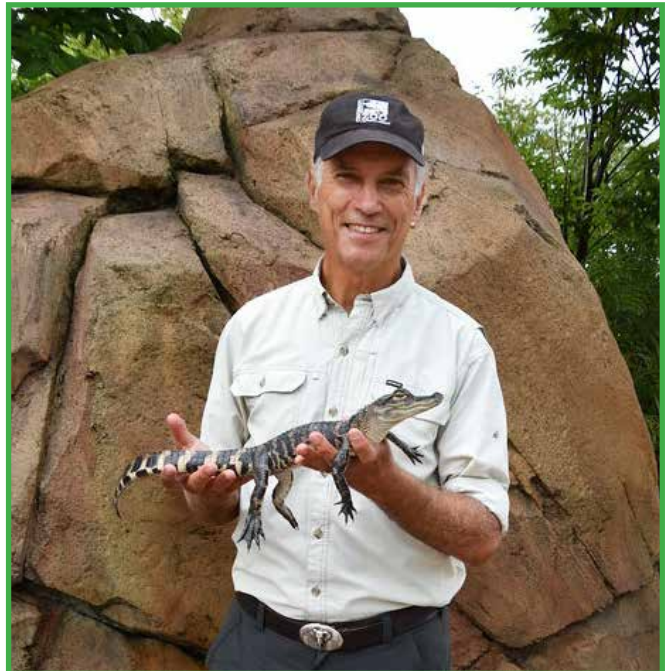
A Publication of the Wyoming Historical Society and the Wyoming History Museum

THANE MAYNARD CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

March 27, 2025

Internationally known for his dedication to wildlife preservation and education, former Wyoming resident Thane Maynard, takes us on a journey through the history of the Cincinnati Zoo from its beginnings to the present day.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens is the second oldest zoo in the United States, founded in 1873 and officially opening in 1875. It is the home of Fiona our hippo, who just celebrated her 8th birthday.



**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.

THE JOURNEY OF A 2 3/4 INCH MEDICINE BOTTLE....Amy Pursley

Irving H. Hills was the son of a railroad agent who moved around the country and settled in Hartwell in the 1880s. In 1887, Irving opened his first drug store in Hartwell. It may have been located near the present-day Sunoco Station on Galbraith Road. The *Cincinnati Commercial Gazette* stated "Mr. Hills is not only a popular young man, but a druggist of standing and expert chemist, and, with such qualifications, success should



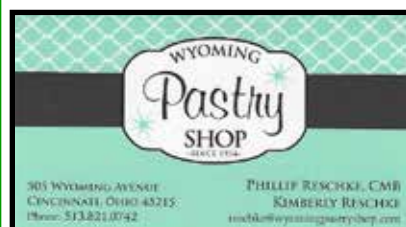
be his venture." (11 Sept. 1887). At that time, he was living with his parents on Williams Avenue (now known as Wiswell Street) in Hartwell. He married in 1888 and moved in with his in-laws, who also lived on Williams Avenue. An 1893 article said Mr. Hills purchased two "drug stands" in Wyoming from Louis Dehmel, one of which was closed as soon as the lease expired. The second location was at the intersection of Worthington and Crescent Avenues, the Woodruff Building, which was a multi-use business facility near the railroad tracks. The Wyoming store does not appear to have lasted very long. The only references so far are from 1893. By 1897, the Hartwell store was being run by someone named "A. S. Hills", not Irving. In 1898, Irving had a drug store at 217 East Sixth Street in Cincinnati. Sometime around the turn of the century, Irving went into business with Otto Stein and William T. Gray. Irving Hills was the Treasurer of The Stein-Gray Drug Company and held that position for at least ten years. In 1909, Irving also served as the president of the Hartwell Board of Education. By 1920, Irving and his family were living in Brooking, Missouri. He worked as a wholesale drug salesman there until his death in 1933. The artifact in the photo is definitely a snapshot of a very small window of time, probably 1893.

A thank you to Jessie Boone who found this little bottle in the walls of her house in Evanston! We will never know the journey this bottle took to get from Hartwell or Wyoming to Evanston but we can thank Jessie for donating it to your Wyoming Historical Society.

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 August will be credited through December of the following year. New members please send your check, name, address, phone and email to us and we will handle the rest. 800 Oak Avenue, Wyoming, OH 45215. Thank you.

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.

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NEW LIFETIME MEMBER WELCOME...

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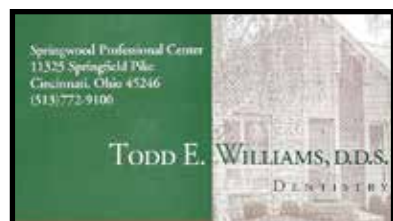
NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Steve Bell
Beth Moore Don & Mary Jo Peairs
Patricia Whalen Jane Woolsey

-- MARK YOUR CALENDAR -- MAY PROGRAM

May 8, 2025 Michael George, Naturalist, talks about Cincinnati Parks and how they have grown.

BUSINESS MEMBERS



REMEMBERING TAX STAMPS...Sherry Sheffield

Do you remember tax stamps? I remember the cashier giving them to my mother when she bought groceries at Kroger. And, I remember crawling around and reaching under the checkout counter to retrieve ones that other people had dropped or thrown down. I would have been nine or ten. My grandmother would collect them for a period of time then I would sit at the card table by her dining room window and put them in piles of 100 of like denomination. Then she took them to her guild meeting at church. I didn't really know what they were or why they were but they were important and they were trusting me to count and organize them correctly.

The tax stamps were printed by the Columbus Bank Note Company and issued by the state between 1935 and 1955. They came in various denomination, each denomination being a different color. Over the twenty years that Ohio issued them, they changed design a number of times.

In a recent donation to your Historical Society, Keith Kleespies included an unused 'stack' of 1-cent tax stamps. I went on a search of everything tax stamp or 'receipts' as they were referred to. Any merchant who charged Ohio sales tax on an item was required to give the purchaser tax stamps of a value equal to the Ohio tax. The merchant purchased these tax stamps from the state. The consumer was encouraged to collect the tax stamps and give them to organizations (charities and schools) who would turn them in to the state and collect three percent of the face value.

Do you remember tax stamps?



The stack of one-cent tax stamps above now resides in your Wyoming History Museum.



ARE YOU TRUE OR MAGNETIC?...Joe Hornsby

At a recent WHS presentation on The Ohio Indian War, the lecturer mentioned the New Road formed as a shortcut from Wayne's Trace. It was cut through the wilderness on what eventually became known as Springfield Pike. While this wasn't anything newly interesting, what was intriguing is she mentioned the road's center line followed along a township 'section line' – helping solve a mystery I have wondered about since moving to Wyoming, as well as with ties to a trove of interesting local and national history.

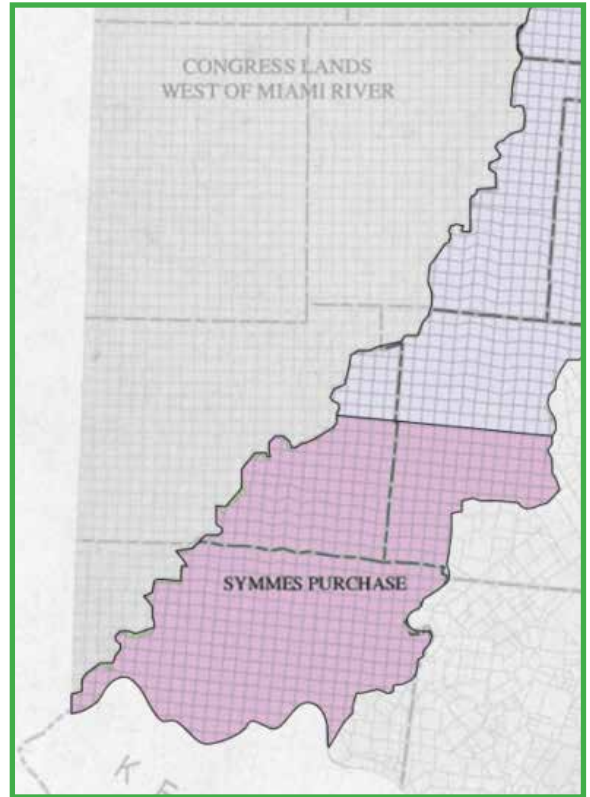
Looking at a satellite view of our first house on E. Mills Ave, I was always curious to why our lot lines and house orientation appeared 'tilted' slightly right, not facing directly north; and looking at The Pike, Elm Ave and Burns Ave – everything appears laid out contiguously 'tilted' just a little northeasterly. When moving to Worthington Ave, this phenomenon was more noticeable as our house orientation is facing directly north, while the lot lines and garage are 'tilted' on a diagonal.

In early forming of a constitutional United States, John Cleves Symmes purchased 311,682 acres 'between the Miami' rivers at 66 & 2/3 cents per acre, named the 'Symmes' or 'Miami Purchase'. The newly formed U.S. government was 'land wealthy but cash poor' and could not yet levy taxes on its citizens. Land sales provided much needed revenue for a fledgling new nation. A requirement of purchasing the land was absorbing expenses associated in surveying the area under the Land Ordinance of 1785 using the Public Land Surveying System consisting of Townships, Sections, Quarter Sections, and Quarter Quarter Sections.

Symmes' private surveyor, Israel Ludlow, opted to run meridian survey lines using 'magnetic north' as opposed to 'true north', resulting in the angled lines we see and live with today. And since the New Road followed a township section line that Ludlow surveyed, we were destined to always drive ever so slightly northeasterly!

This among other challenges encountered, resulted in issues and controversies for Symmes such as selling land he didn't own, disputes on the actual boundaries of lands sold, and validity of land titles. The troubles mounted so great Symmes supposedly spent much of his later life in court and died in poverty.

How are your lines run? Are you 'magnetic' or 'true' north? You can see this surveying discrepancy visually standing at the corner of The Pike and Wyoming Ave, noticing how the sidewalk increases in width to the shops as you stand facing south.



The Wyoming Historical Society
800 Oak Avenue
Wyoming OH 45215

Look forward to seeing you at our
next program on March 27!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Amy Pursley

Four years ago this month, my husband gave me a gift membership for the Wyoming Historical Society. This gift opened up a wealth of information about my community and led me to a satisfying volunteer role in an organization made up of really terrific people. Gift memberships are available any time of year. Contact our office, visit our website, or check out our Facebook page for membership information.



ADDING TO THE ARCHIVES....

A thank you to Keith Kleespies III for sending us some great photos and items such as the tax stamp stack (see page 4). Some photos, taken in Hartwell oh-so-many years ago, have been shared with the Hartwell Historical group. They included a picture of the C.J. Kleespies Hardware Store on Burns Avenue in the building now labeled "Hall of Montezuma", Kleespies Ford then Oldsmobile which is now the Friends of the Library and Wheatley's Restaurant on the corners of Vine St. and Hillsdale Avenue which burned down about two years ago.



Kleespies Ford c:1920s