

A Publication  
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Society

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# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

Member of:  
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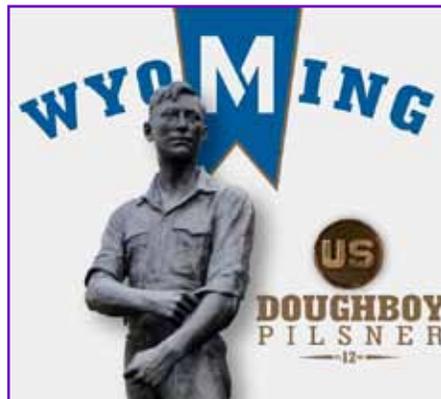
Sherry Sheffield  
Newsletter Editor



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Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00  
or by appointment.

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

## "CINCINNATI BEER HISTORY & TASTING"



The featured speaker will be Michael D. Morgan, author of "Cincinnati Beer." He will share with us a history of the region's brewing industry from the 1700's to the current era and "Over the Rhine: When Beer Was King." Michael founded the Bier Garten at Findlay Market, initiated the first historic brewery tours and organized the latest Cincinnati's Bockfest. Join us for a history lesson plus tasting of the WHS Doughboy Pilsner and the Colonel Reily IPA beers which debuted this past summer! "Cincinnati Beer" books for sale.

**Thursday, November 14, 2019  
7 PM**

**Council Chambers, City Building  
followed by Doughboy and Col. Reily Beer  
tastings in the Reily Room and Museum**

**FREE - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REFRESHMENTS**

**Please join us for all of this year's remaining programs.**

January 23 "Historic Restaurants of Cincinnati"  
March 19 "Cincinnati and the Presidents"  
May 7 "Powel Crosley Jr. Story"

## PROUD BUSINESS MEMBERS

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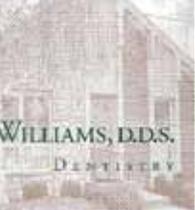
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## ITS THAT DUES TIME OF YEAR....

Please consider paying next year's dues from this newsletter. That will save us time, energy and postage costs!!!! Thank you.

### WYOMING HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES January-December 2020

\_\_\_ Family Membership \$20                      \_\_\_ Contributing Membership \$50

\_\_\_ Business Membership \$25                      \_\_\_ Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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If you provide an email address you will receive your newsletters and program reminders by email.

If you prefer to receive your newsletter by USPS, please check this box.

Make check payable to: Wyoming Historical Society and send to:  
Wyoming Historical Society, 800 Oak Avenue, Wyoming, OH 45215

We are an approved 501-c-3 organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

### CONGRATULATIONS DEBORAH ALLSOP...

Congratulations to long-time Historical Society member Deborah Allsop on being named one of the 2019 *Enquirer Women of the Year*.

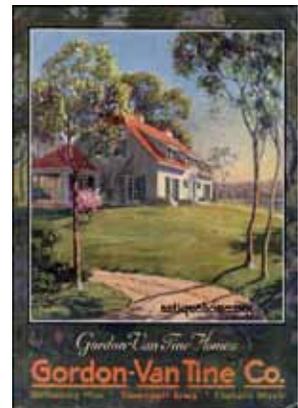
### NEW MEMBER WELCOME...

Tim & Christine Marty  
Jennifer Sauers

### GORDON-VAN TINE HOMES

We are just learning about Gordon-Van Tine Homes thanks to Wyoming resident Helen McCormick. Helen knows that her house on Burns was one and thinks there could be more in Wyoming.

Is your home one of these ready-cut or kit homes produced from 1907 until the 1950's?



## WELL DONE ELLIOTT BROTHERS...

Probably one of the most popular and admired family businesses in Wyoming through the years has been the one owned by the four Elliott brothers. Together they operated a very successful cement and concrete business. They manufactured their own building blocks and over time built more than thirty homes in Wyoming, particularly around the Crosley-Oak Street area.

Walter Claude Elliott, the oldest of the brothers was blessed with Curtis Graham Elliott born October 10, 1906. Curtis became a good worker for his father and also an excellent student in the racially integrated Wyoming High School. Working as a construction laborer understandably led to his decision to become an architect. So upon graduating from high school in 1925, he enrolled at Howard University's School of Architecture. While there, he distinguished himself as a gifted student and was selected to represent his school at the National Technical Association in Chicago in 1929. He graduated in 1931 with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

Breaking from family tradition, Curtis did not return to Wyoming to join the family construction company. He instead joined Howard University Department of Buildings and Grounds where he spent his entire professional career of three decades. Curtis Elliott died on February 4, 1970. In recognition of his dedication to Howard University, his body lay in state in the university's Rankin Memorial Chapel.

Another son to Walter Claude Elliott was Arthur C. Elliott born January 1, 1918. Upon graduating from Wyoming High School in 1936, Arthur also entered Howard University. He lettered all four years there and was the captain of the 1939 football team. He received a degree in political science.

During World War II, he was a technical sergeant. He earned a law degree from Salmon P. Chase College of Law and began a private practice. He became an assistant attorney general for the State of Ohio. President Lyndon Johnson appointed him a United States Marshall for Southern Ohio becoming the first of his race to hold this position in the 50 states.

Arthur was very active in civic affairs serving as a director, chairman and trustee of a number of organizations in Hamilton County and the State of Ohio.

Curtis and Arthur Elliott had a strong and loving father who told both of them to always do your best and take pride in your work. They took his advice and prospered.

Source: Guckenberger, George B. Wyoming: A Retrospective; African American Architects – A Biographical Dictionary 1865-1945; Cincinnati Herald newspaper



The Elliott brothers and crew at work in Wyoming.

## MAYORS FROM WYOMING PAST...By Sherry Sheffield

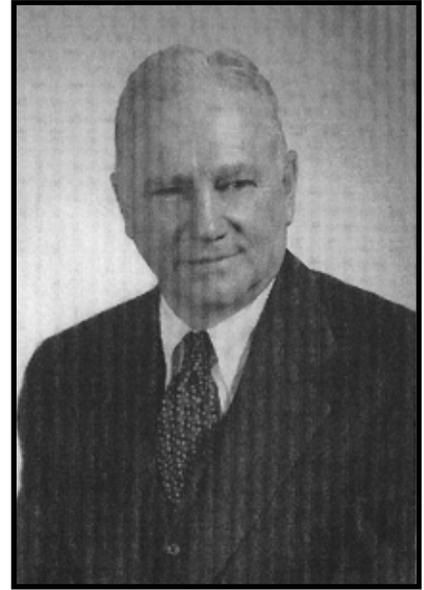
### J. EARL PRUDEN (1894-1987)

Wyoming's sixteenth mayor was James Earl Pruden Sr. Earl, as he was called, was born in 1894 in Sidney, attended school there and died there. However, after graduating from Miami University, this chemical engineer moved to Canada, Wyoming and Milan, Tennessee in his career with Proctor & Gamble. He served them as a chemist, Division Manager and Vice President.

Mayor Pruden took over as Mayor when Frank Bonham resigned to serve as a Probate Court Judge in 1939. But his tenure was a short two years as he was transferred in 1941 to the U.S. Government's chemical facility in Milan, Tennessee as part of the war effort.

The Pruden family, wife Ruth, and children Ruth Ann and Earl Jr. (WHS Class of 1938), lived at 315 Reily Road and attended the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming. After retiring, Pruden served as a Miami University Trustee from 1959-1964.

Some of this information came from Pruden's grandson, Jerrold in 2014. He spoke fondly of his Papaw and Mamaw.



Your historical society is actively searching for additional information on Wyoming's past mayors. If you have any ideas, know any relatives, have any thoughts on how we can learn more on a particular person, please let us know.

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### CONGRATULATIONS READING HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

Our congratulation to the Reading Historical Society on being awarded the *Ohio Local History Alliance Outstanding Achievement Award - History Outreach*. 2019 has been a very busy time for the society, they celebrated the 100th anniversary of Reading's Doughboy status, dedicated a Vietnam memorial, produced the "Reading Doughboy Tribute" book, and reproduced the "A Tale of Three Towns" from 1908. In addition, they had their regular programs and business district tours. Good work President Allan Rettberg and team.

Their next program is November 7, 6:30 at the Reading Library, 8740 Reading Road. Hope Taft joins Aaron Rourke talking about "Celebrating 50 years of Little Miami Scenic River Status".

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### DONATIONS....

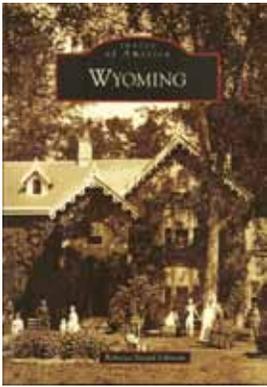
Beth Klekamp Moore...Documents pertaining to the Sansone Food Market, 1 Wyoming Avenue and Sansone Woods.

Brian Hurst...Yearbooks, WHS Sports Programs, and miscellaneous from the 1970.

Todd Williams...Lt. John R. Fox G.I. Joe.

Ruwan Alwis...May Fete tickets from the 1980's.

# THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING...



"Images of Wyoming"  
Book - \$25

All these items are available at  
the Wyoming Historical Society  
Headquarters, 800 Oak Avenue, Tuesdays  
11 AM-3 PM or by appointment 842-  
1383. Wyoming-Opoly only is also  
available at the Wyoming Pastry Shop and  
the City Offices, 800 Oak.



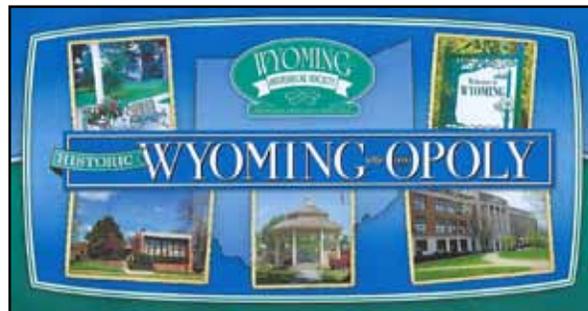
"Wyoming: A Retrospective"  
Book - \$35



150th Naming Anniversary Flag - \$25



Wyoming Centennial  
Queen of the Suburbs Plate  
\$20



Wyoming-Opoly Game - \$30



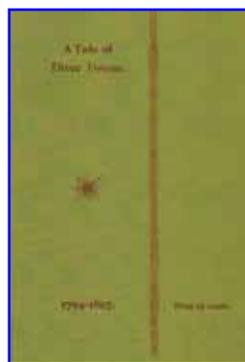
Cat's Meow Collectible  
Doughboy - \$20



150th Anniversary  
Wine Glass - \$10



Cat's Meow Collectible  
Wyoming Logo - \$20



A Tale of Three  
Towns (Wyoming,  
Lockland, Reading)  
Published 1908 - \$10



Historical Society & Reily House  
Water Bottle - \$5 (2 for \$8)



Cat's Meow Collectible  
Wyoming Middle School - - \$25



Cat's Meow Collectible  
Pendery Avenue School - - \$25

## IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY 2019...

THANK YOU JOHN FOX...

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, is an African-American Division that fought in World War II. One of this division's soldiers, First Lieutenant John R. Fox, was acting as a forward observer, while attached to the 598<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion. On Christmas night, there was a gradual infiltration of enemy soldiers wearing civilian clothes moving into the village of Sommocolonia. Around four in the morning, the area was being heavily shelled by the Germans. The frightened residents fled to their basements for shelter, although Lt. Fox remained on the second floor of a house directing defensive fire.

Lt. Fox reported, at eight o'clock, that the Germans were in the streets and attaching in strength. He called for fire increasingly close to his own position. He told his battalion commander. "That was just where I wanted it. Being it in 60 yards." His commander protested that the bombardment would be too close. Lt. Fox gave his adjustment, requesting that the barrage be fired.

The Commander protested again, stating, "Fox that will be on you!" The last communication from Lt. Fox was, "Fire it! There are more of them than there are of us. Give them hell!" The bodies of Lt. Fox and his party were found when his position was taken. This action, by Lt. Fox, at the cost of his own life, inflicted heavy casualties, causing the deaths of more than one-hundred German soldiers, thereby delaying the advance of the enemy until infantry and artillery units could be recognized to meet the attack. Lt. Fox's extraordinary action exemplifying the highest tradition of the military service earned him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

It should be mentioned that while John Fox was a student here in Wyoming (Class of 1934), he and his high school buddies put together gift baskets and delivered them to neighbors on Christmas morning. John Fox and other Americans like him deserve our gratitude and respect. Thank you John Fox.



Recently, Wyoming historians learned that Hasbro Inc. created an action figure commemorating Lt. John R. Fox as part of its G. I. Joe Medal of Honor Series. The action figure, given to us by Todd Williams, can be seen in our museum.



**The Wyoming Historical Society**  
**800 Oak Street**  
**Wyoming OH 45215**

Look forward to seeing  
you on November 14th  
in Council Chambers...

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER...Mary Killen**

Dear Members,

I don't know about you but I need to make lists to keep myself organized. So for this newsletter, I'm going to provide some items you might find on your Historical Society list of things to do.

1. Please renew your membership. Your support is very important for our organization. Also if you have friends who love and appreciate Wyoming history, please invite them to join.
2. Mark your calendar for the upcoming programs for 2019-20. Our theme this year is Cincinnati and the programs range from the history of local foods and drinks to presidents and innovators. I hope to see many of you in November at our Annual Meeting.
3. If you need gifts for new neighbors, family or friends, don't forget about the items your Historical Society has for sale. It's a great way to support our organization and to promote Wyoming. (see page 6)
4. Enjoy this newsletter. I never fail to learn something about our rich history and hope you do as well. It is amazing to discover our past and to appreciate all that has gone on before us.



Thanks for your continued support.  
Honoring Wyoming's Past,  
Mary Killen, President