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# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

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Your  
Wyoming Historical Society  
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corporation.

In honor of Veteran's Day....

## TIME PASSED SWIFTLY...

The year was 1943 and young Jack Mueller had just graduated from high school.

He bid to his family and friends goodbye, then without delay headed to the nearest recruiting station and joined the army.

**The following is Jack's story.**

We pushed through Steaufenberg, Gnulzheim, Wesserzill, Laub and Hammerfelt. Finally, at Biberback, about thirty miles from Munich the Germans stopped to put up a strong resistance.

We were hit and all hell broke loose. We opened fire with everything we had for twenty minutes and then walked through what was left of the town. In those twenty minutes of fire, we lost sixteen of our eighteen tanks.

The Germans had fox holes connected by tunnels and it took bulldozer tanks to cover them with the men inside. Although we captured some three hundred Germans, our group lost three hundred-seventy-two men out of one thousand twenty-five.

We pulled up outside of Munich that night. I had been averaging two hours sleep a day for the past two weeks, so when our command gave orders we could stop I took advantage of the break. The next morning, we moved out. Being a medic, I drove a jeep rigged with two stretchers. Along the way, I saw several German slave laborers walking aimlessly beside the road. Before we reached our destination – Munich, a doctor, a member of the local underground stopped our advance and told us a number of tanks and anti-tanks guns were still hidden in the city. He was riding a bicycle and said he would go ahead as an advance scout and help us bypass these strong holds. We believed him and he was good to his word. The capture of Munich was led by a German medic on a bicycle!



Young Jack Mueller c:1943

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On April 29th, 1945, the 20th Armored Division led the way to the liberation of Dachau, the infamous Nazi prison camp.

The smell of death was in the air. PFC Mueller, along with other medics became so engrossed in their work of giving comfort to the abused and undernourished prisoners, that they didn't notice some of the most battle-hardened soldiers around them were weeping. Presently, Jack stood up, veered around like a weather vane and realized he was no longer young.



Jack and some of his fellow soldiers taking a meal break in Germany.

Source: from Jack Mueller's memoirs loaned to us by his daughter, Joyce Mueller.

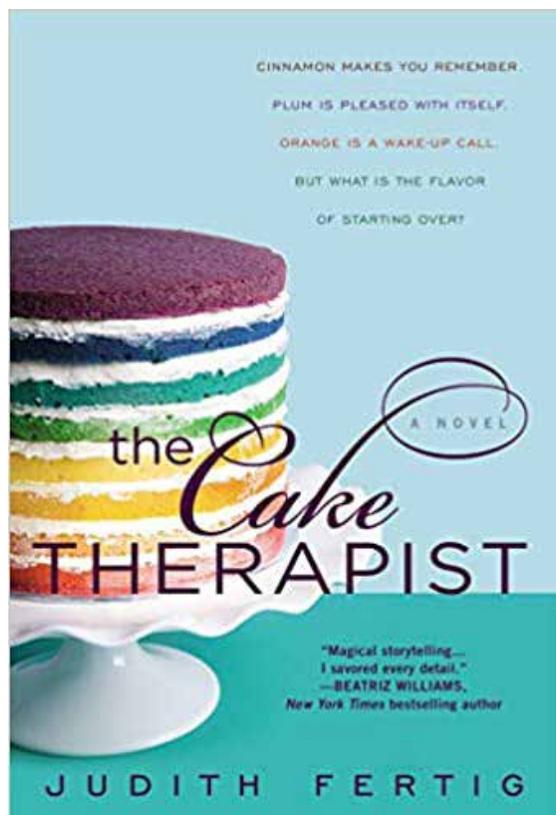
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## SAYING GOODBYE....

We gratefully thank Adam Beard, Jeannie Tobias and outgoing President Mary Killen for their years of service on our board.

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## LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK?...

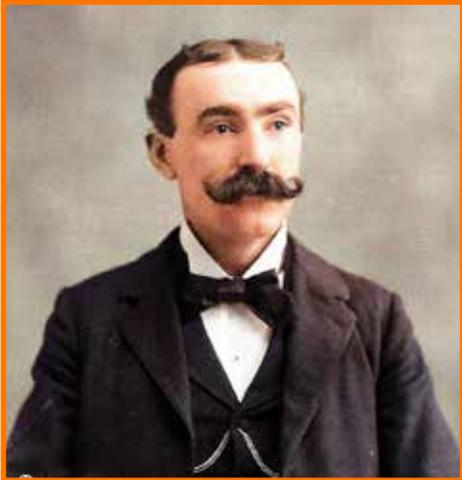


How about a story set in the Mill Creek Valley or Millcreek, Ohio? Allan Rettberg, Reading Historical Society President, wrote about this in their Society newsletter, Bridging Times. "I'm always intrigued by Reading stories. The first one is about Judith Merkle Fertig. She is an award-winning cookbook author who studied culinary in London and Paris. She travels around the country teaching cooking classes and giving radio/television interviews. Judith wrote her first novel in 2015 called "The Cake Therapist". It's about a woman who moves to Millcreek, Ohio and opens a bakery in the Bridal District. Sound familiar? We're talking about Reading, Ohio. Judith or "Judy" is from Reading."

"I asked around to get more information about her, but facts were a bit sketchy. So I went to the source and emailed Judith. She promptly replied and told me that she grew up on Fuhrman Road and her father owned Merkle Meats in Lockland. She worked at the Wyoming Bakery Shop in high school (graduated from Reading High School in 1968) and enjoyed the aroma of all the flavors blending together. "The Cake Therapist" is a love letter to that time and place," she said."

Available through Amazon and other sources

## WHO WAS LARKIN B. CAVETT AND WHAT DID HE DO???.



Larkin B. Cavett

Larkin B. Cavett (1866-1915) was born in Indiana, one of seven children of Jesse and Elizabeth. We don't know why he came from Indiana to this area but we can determine that he arrived before 1891. He married Flora M. Skillman of Lockland. She bore him one son, Lloyd Palmer Cavett. Son Lloyd owned the Cavett Company in Lockland paving roads all around the region.

Father Larkin was a builder of houses and other buildings. Most of those houses, at least the ones we know of, were brick or block houses. What we have recently found out is that there was at least one house that was a frame house, 215 Wentworth.

That house has recently been remodeled and found inside the walls were a number of pieces of wood with the name L. B. Larkin on them. Builders have been known to 'sign' their name somewhere – perhaps on a beam - in a house they built but a number of Larkin 'names' were found in this house. The theory, Larkin ordered lumber, probably from the Lockland Lumber Company, and the company wrote his name on the top piece of the bundle of ordered wood. Thus, every bundle of lumber would have a piece of wood with his name on it!



215 Wentworth

In Lockland, Larkin built the Stearns & Foster Officer building on the corner of E. Wyoming Ave and Williams Street. He also built the Lockland Town Hall that houses the Lockland Fire and Police Departments on the corner of N. Cooper and E. Wyoming Ave.



Stearns & Foster Office Building



Lockland Town Hall as it was originally built.

(Continued from preceding page 4)

Note that on many of the brick and stone structures, the corners are offset in design. This is often found in Cavett built houses.



In Wyoming, Larkin built as his home, 322 Wyoming Avenue, now known as the Fine Arts Center. He then sold it to the Masons who added the auditorium.

In 1904, he built 325 Wyoming Avenue, across the street from the Fine Arts Center, where he lived with his family. His son, Lloyd, lived in 325 until his death in 1992. In the picture below, you see Larkin on the porch, his wife, Helen on the steps. Next to Helen is her sister Lulu Skillman and between them is little Lloyd Cavett.



On Poplar Avenue he built 312, 318, and 322 (see below). And, he probably built 314 Wyoming Avenue and maybe 307 Wyoming Avenue.

We just wonder how many more houses in Wyoming were built by Larkin B. Cavett.



312 Poplar



318 Poplar



322 Poplar

You need to look very carefully to see LB Cavett written across the board. This piece of wood compliments of Tom Lange.



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

Look forward to seeing  
you in 2021

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

Dear Members,

As we are in the midst of the upcoming holiday season, I wish each of you special time with your family and friends. Whether in person or via social media, I hope you reflex on and are thankful for life's many blessings as you enjoy those in your life. And of course, I wish you good health during this continuing pandemic.

Although your Historical Society is still not able to resume usual activities, we're still working quietly. Residents are visiting the office looking for information on their historic homes, are donating Wyoming items as they declutter and volunteers are continuing to work on small projects.

The annual membership drive has begun and I urge you to renew. We had great ideas planned to promote Wyoming history with the community but sadly they are on hold. Once our country returns to normal, we'll be back more enthusiastically than ever with educational programs, tours and events. We need your continued support in 2021. As always, thank you for your interest.

Honoring Wyoming's Past,

Mary Killen, President

