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# THE HISTORICAL RECORD

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Ohio Local History Alliance,  
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Open Tuesday 10:30-3:00  
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Your  
Wyoming Historical Society  
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corporation.

## ALEXANDER RHODES RECEIVES HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

For the past seventeen years, the Wyoming Historical Society has awarded a scholarship to an outstanding junior student in Advanced Placement American History. The 2020 recipient is Alexander Rhodes currently a rising senior at Wyoming High School.

Alexander, over the course of his high school career, has worked with members of the community to achieve goals ranging from a successful Primary Schools Harvest Festival to combating climate change. He was a co-organizer of Lunch Waster Sorting and Zero Waste Lunch Programs, an organizer for the School Strike For Climate, has participated in amateur composition/recording focusing on ecological essays and composition, and was a state finalist in the Caring for Our Watershed Project. Alexander is also a member of the Wyoming High School Marching, Jazz, Pep and Concert Bands and plays in an extracurricular rock band. He is a counselor at Camp Washington Kids' Club, founder of the Political Discourse Club at Wyoming High School and a five-year participant in the Model United Nations. He has also has been on the Honor Roll for the past three years and is a member of the Tennis Team.

"The Historical Society is pleased to present this award to Alexander," stated Mary Killen, President. "Alexander is an outstanding young man who cares deeply about the environment and who has a well-rounded resume of activities along with academic success. This is certainly a well-deserved honor for such an accomplished student."

Along with the \$500.00 scholarship to be used for college applications and expenses, Alexander received a copy of *Images of America: Wyoming* by Rebecca Strand Johnson and a Historic Wyoming-Opoly game.



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A Unique and rewarding  
place to visit.

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## POP-A-DOG

Pop-a-Dog is a mobile hotdog business based in Wyoming, ready to serve anywhere anytime. Owned and operated by Wyoming residents John and Terri Pinkston, Pop-a-Dog debuted at Wyoming's July 4th 2016 Muddy Pig. Since then the business has grown to include serving at many local city and school events as well as private parties and corporate events. 2020 has been a challenging year for many small businesses and Pop-a-Dog is no exception. We are slowly and cautiously beginning to serve our public once again. Locations and times are posted on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Remember it's always a great day for a hotdog!

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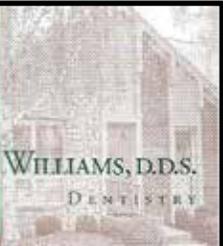
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## A TALE OF CHURCH, OFFICE, HOME...

### Tale One

It's a tale of two buildings, two very different uses and now, it's soon to be a tale of three. It's about the land near Cooper and Crescent Avenues where currently the Wyoming Medical Center is located. So return to the 1880's. Mr. C.M. Peck, a scholarly and cultured gentleman, came to this area from Maryland with his wife, Mary McSharey. They took up residence on Worthington Ave. near the Pike. His wife was a devout Catholic. So Mr. Peck interested himself in the establishment of a parish "on this side of the canal." He enlisted the interest of others and called a meeting at this home to discuss the feasibility of forming a new congregation.

With a committee formed, the group called upon the Vicar General of the Diocese who promised to take up matter with the Archbishop. Within a short time, the proposal was accepted. Thus, began the formation of the first St. James Church.

Although there was much discussion about the location, a site on Crescent Ave. was agreed upon and obtained from Mr. Worthington for the sum of \$1,500. Mr. Worthington, although not a Catholic, offered to donate \$500 toward the new church on the condition that it would be for English speaking Catholics. The offer was accepted, some additional funding borrowed and the congregation became a reality. Bids were taken and the cost of the new building was \$4,750. Over the years, several expansions occurred to include an addition, a rectory, school, and an auditorium. In 1929, as the City of Wyoming expanded to the west and Springfield Pike became a major thoroughfare, the Woodruff property was purchased on Springfield Pike for the new location of St. James rather than remain and build on the Cooper/Crescent property.



St James Church & School on Crecent.

### Tale Two

The actual beginning of the Wyoming Medical Center started with Dr. Stuart Matthews. After completing his internship, he planned to open a practice in Wyoming. He was told to buy six corduroy suits, a rocking chair, and to sit of his front porch so he could be seen. One day there was an accident on Springfield Pike and an injured boy was brought to Dr. Matthews. What does this have to do with start of the Wyoming Medical Center or the second building of our tale?

The father of the boy was the CEO of the Cambridge Tile Company. This resulted in Dr. Matthews being hired to do all the industrial exams, take care of industrial injuries, and gradually expanded to include the families of the workers. Eventually, it became a general practice with more physicians added to accommodate the growth. The practice thrived in the office located at 421 Burns Ave. As more space was required for the busy physicians, their equipment and laboratory, plans were made to expand.



Original office of Dr. Matthews at 421 Burns.

The physicians searched everywhere in Wyoming and finally a decision was made to leave the area. Then Dr. Matthews came up with idea to purchase property near the corners of Cooper and Crescent Avenues on which stood the vacant St. James school, church and rectory house. The property was an eyesore with overgrown weeds.

Dr. Matthews made a deal to obtain the property and offered to trade a farm he owned in Crescentville for the Wyoming property.

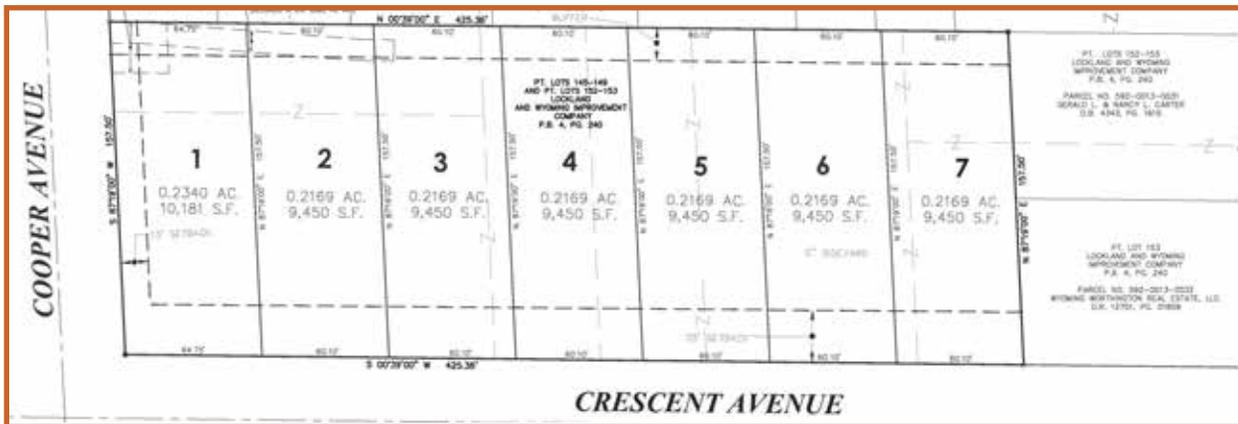
In 1958, architects and the general contractor were hired. The buildings, demolished, the lot leveled and building began. By October 1960, the Wyoming Medical Center was completed. Shortly after completion, the old office at 421 Burns was sold to the Wyoming Presbyterian Church for demolition to increase the church's parking lot.



Wyoming Medical Center

### Tale Three

And now, the 2020 and future version is still to be written. As the current building on the Medical Center site is vacant and no longer used, the land is to be developed for residential use. Seven houses are scheduled to be built on the property. Once again, there will be stories to be told in the future about the property and the owners who will reside near Cooper and Crescent Avenues.



The Traditions Group rendering of the seven lots to be developed where the empty Wyoming Family Practice building now rests.

(The History of St. James Parish and the History of the Wyoming Medical Center were used for this summary article. Complete copies of the articles are available in the Historical Society archives.)

## ADDING TO THE ARCHIVES....

Sherry Weckenbrock - Items from her mother's (Delores Doll Stewart '33) including basketball uniform, athletic letters, framed championship basketball photo, and programs from Wyoming Players performances.

Bob Thornburgh - copy of "The Railroad and the City" by Carl W. Condit.

Glenn Lewis - The Cincinnati Times-Star from 6 June 1944.

## 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: Family \$20, Contributing \$50, Business \$25. 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.

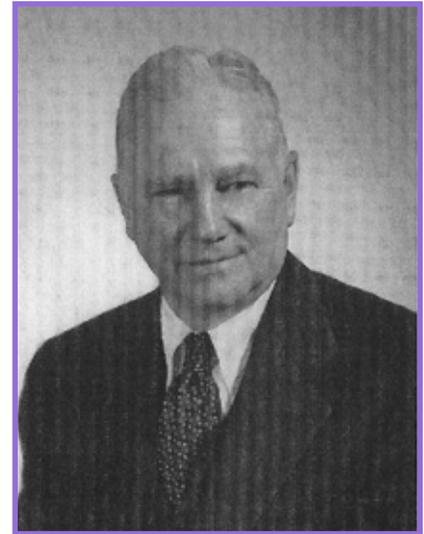
## MAYORS FROM WYOMING PAST...By Sherry Sheffield

### JAMES EARL PRUDEN SR. Mayor 1939-1941

Upon the resignation of Mayor Frank S. Bonham Sr., Earl Pruden was sworn in as the sixteenth mayor of the Village. Pruden was born in 1894 in Sidney Ohio. He graduated from Miami University in 1913 and worked as a Chemist, Division Manager and Vice President of Procter and Gamble.

He married Ruth Haskell Keller in October 1916. They made their home at 315 Reily Road. His children were Ruth Anne (1918-1933) and James Earl Pruden Jr., Wyoming High School class of 1938. He has a grandson, Jerrold Pruden of Hope, Arkansas.

Pruden was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Wyoming and served on the Board of Trustees of Miami University. He died in 1987 and is buried at Cedar Point Cemetery, Shelby County, Ohio.



J. Earl Pruden Sr.

Pruden only served for 1 year, 11 months and 7 days. His employer, P&G reassigned him to the building of the U.S. Government shell-loading facility at Milam, Tennessee in June 1941. He was followed by Ralph Bond.



Pruden headstone in Shelby County, Ohio.

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 mayor, please let us know.

### CURMUDGEON...Glenn Lewis



The outer me now walks with a cane  
While the inner me plays a sly game

Of running off to far away places  
Like mountain streams or Indian Mesas

The outer me can no longer be as  
Footloose and fancy free as the inner me.

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

*Stay well and we will see you  
when the time is right!*

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

Dear Members,

Once again, I wish you all the best while maintaining social distancing and surviving during this unusual time.

At this time of summer, your Trustees would normally be planning programs and events for the coming year. But after much thought and discussion, we're putting things on hold for now. Sadly, it's impossible to predict what several months from now will look like. We'll be in touch when and if we can move forward...it's certainly not business as usual now or probably in the near future.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your membership. As an organization, the Historical Society plays a vital role in our community and it's so important that we continue to preserve our city's history. Your commitment, support and interest are greatly appreciated.

Honoring Wyoming's Past,  
Mary Killen, President

