

HELP US SOLVE WHEELING'S HISTORY MYSTERIES!



Do you recognize any of the people in this flyer? Help us by taking a look inside!

The Ohio County Public Library Archives is teaming up with Weelunk & Archiving Wheeling to reach out to Wheeling area residents—or people that have lived in the Wheeling area at any time—to help identify people, places, dates, and other unknowns in historic photographs of Wheeling from the Library's Archives.



OHIO COUNTY PUBLIC
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Vol. 1, No. 1 | February 2021

This is the first installment in what will be an ongoing crowdsourcing project to connect the collective memory of today's Wheeling community to its historical resources and stories. A picture is worth a thousand words, and the more we know about the photos that tell Wheeling's stories, the better we are able to uncover important and sometimes forgotten histories of our community.

WHAT IS "CROWDSOURCING"?

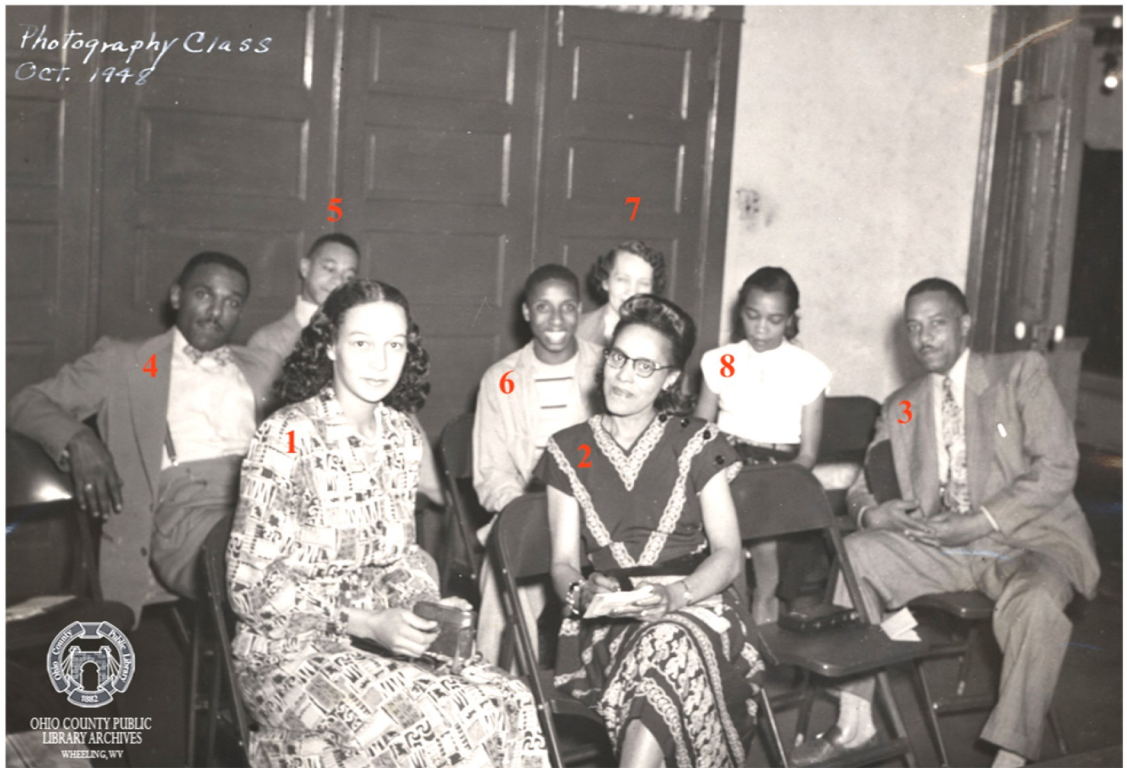
Crowdsourcing history is reaching out to the wider community to solicit help and knowledge in preserving, discovering, diversifying, and communicating history. History is not just created by or for trained historians—it is made up of stories, secrets, documents, memories, and more that are preserved by everyday people. Historians verify, analyze, and interpret history, but the entire community is responsible for maintaining and expanding the histories, stories, and narratives that create the foundations of their society. Sometimes history's mysteries just need someone with the right key.

- Read more about how crowdsourcing has been used to solve previous Wheeling history mysteries in the Ohio County Public Library Archives at Archiving Wheeling: <http://tiny.cc/AW-Crowdsourcing>
- Help us identify the people in the following photos. Submit known names online at <http://weelunk.com/help-solve-historys-mysteries/> or identify known people in this flyer and return the flyer to the Ohio County Public Library, 52-16th Street, Wheeling, WV 26003.

FEBRUARY 2021 WHEELING HISTORY MYSTERIES:

In honor of Black History Month, we're featuring photos that captured moments in time from Wheeling's African American community. Can help us identify some of these Wheeling community members?

Photo 1: Photography Class, Oct. 1948



Historically, Wheeling was a segregated city. As such, the Wheeling chapter YWCA was not exempt from the so-called "Jim Crow" laws designed to keep blacks and whites legally separate. But the Wheeling YWCA was ahead of its time in promoting racial equality, and in 1921, sought to extend its protections and advocacy to the African American community. The segregated Blue Triangle Branch of the Wheeling YWCA existed from 1921 until 1956 when the organization became fully integrated. The people in this photo were attending a photography class at the Blue Triangle. Do you recognize any of them?

Photo 2: Lincoln School Faculty, Date Unknown



One of the first public schools established for Black students in the United States, Wheeling's segregated Lincoln School opened in 1866. It would educate the African-American children of Ohio County until 1956, when, following the landmark 1954 US Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education*, school segregation was ruled unconstitutional. Do you recognize any of the educators in this undated photo of the Lincoln School Faculty?

Photo 3: Phi Mu—Young Adults, March 1948



These are the founding members of Phi Mu Club of the Young Adult department of the Blue Triangle group. Though we know the club was formed in 1948, we don't know the names of any of the young women or what the function of the club was. Can you help us out?

Photo 4: Women of the Beau Brummel Club



In 1930, a group of Wheeling's African American men organized a social club where they could dress formally, along with their wives or sweethearts, have a gallant time, and "live for one day, so to speak, as their employers did quite often." Do you recognize any of these Les Belles de le Beau Brummel, as the women of the group were called?

Photo 5: Valley Camp Coal Company, Night Shift, 1939



The Valley Camp Coal Co. was incorporated in 1907. According to a 1931 survey conducted by the City of Wheeling, Elm Grove Mining Co. (a subsidiary of Valley Camp) employed 300 African American men, constituting nearly 43% of all mine workers at a time when the Black population of Wheeling was approximately 4%. Do you recognize any of these employees of the Valley Camp Coal Company? Do you know where the entrance to this mine was located?

All photos in this edition of “Help Us Solve Wheeling’s History” are from the collection of the Ohio County Public Library Archives, Wheeling, WV.

Photo 1: Photography Class, Oct. 1948, Blue Triangle Branch, YWCA.
- *from the OCPL Archives YWCA Collection*

Photo 2: Lincoln School Faculty, Date Unknown.
- *from the 1974 Lincoln Reunion Program, OCPL Archives.*
Courtesy Ann Thomas.

Photo 3: Phi Mu—Young Adults, March 1948, Blue Triangle Branch, YWCA.
- *from the OCPL Archives YWCA Collection*

Photo 4: Women of the Beau Brummel Club.
- *from the OCPL Archives Kathryn Snead Collection Of African American Photographs.*

Photo 5: Valley Camp Coal Co., Night Shift, 1939.
- *from the Valley Camp Coal Company Archives Vertical File, OCPL Archives.*

To view these and the more than 3,000 historic photos of Wheeling currently available online from the collections of the OCPL Archives, visit the Library’s Flickr page at <http://flickr.com/ohiocountypubliclibrary/>.

Help Us Solve Wheeling’s History Mysteries!

Visit Weelunk.com to help us identify history mystery photographs online and head to ArchivingWheeling.org to learn more about helping us crowd-source history. Please help us to fortify and diversify Wheeling’s historical record by checking out these and future photos to see if you can solve Wheeling’s history mysteries one face and one place at a time.

Tune in next month for another set of unidentified photographs and history mysteries to be solved!

This project is a partnership between Weelunk, *Archiving Wheeling*, and the Ohio County Public Library with additional support from Preserve WV AmeriCorps.

For more information or questions about this project, please email ewiley9@gmail.com.

For questions about these photos, contact archives@ohiocountylibrary.org.

