

Spring/Summer 2025

UPPER OHIO VALLEY

HISTORICAL REVIEW

In this issue:

Wheeling Legends



The Sequel

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UPPER OHIO VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW



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Volume 44, No. 2

SPRING 2025

UPPER OHIO VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW

Single Copies: \$10.00

Founded by the Wheeling Area Historical Society in 1968, the **UPPER OHIO VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW** is the only publication of its kind in the northern panhandle of West Virginia. Dedicated solely to local history topics, it has become a treasured publication and valuable tool for studying and learning about our geographic area. Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation (WNHAC, later Wheeling Heritage) continued the tradition, editing and publishing the **REVIEW** from 2010-2018. Ownership of the **UOVHR** publication was transferred in the second half of 2018 to the Ohio County Public Library in Wheeling.

UOVHR content has historically included articles, transcribed documents, book reviews, and accounts of the economic, political, social, and cultural history of the greater Wheeling area contributed by historians, researchers, and scholars. Any editorial views expressed by authors do not necessarily reflect the views of the **OCPL**.

OCPL is honored to publish the **UOVHR** and continue this great tradition for years to come.

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<https://tinyurl.com/bdd57hkn>



On the Cover: William Burrus, Mother Holliday, Clarence B. Smith, Dr. Harriet Jones, Dr. John Frissell, Everett Lee, Eileen Miller, Bob Villamagna, Mary E. Fassig, Dr. Marion T. Moses, Dr. Alga W. Hamlin, Edith L. Wilkinson, James Edward Young, Col. Joseph Thoburn, Agnes W. Morrison, Boswell Stillyard, Hydie Friend, The Reuther Brothers, Drucie Bauer, and Ron Scott, Jr.

UPPER OHIO VALLEY HISTORICAL REVIEW

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

Back in 2012, historian Brent Carney approached me about a proposal to Arcadia Publishing for us to co-edit and partially co-write a book for Wheeling in their *Legendary Locals* series.

This idea raised some obvious red flags: Who would be in it? Who would make the selections? Who would deal with the unhappy relatives of those people who were forgotten or left out, for whatever reason? The prospects were a tad nerve-racking.

But, Mr. Carney reasoned, most of the people would already be in the Wheeling Hall of Fame and would have biographies already written. Furthermore, we would assemble the best local history people to do additional selection and writing. Then, his argument became inescapably persuasive when he said we would could donate all royalties to the Ohio County Public Library. How could I say “no” to that?

Inevitably, of course, Murphy’s Law intervened: The Hall of Fame proved an incomplete source; the list was far too long for Arcadia requirements; and the publisher had some unexpected rules about what kinds of people had to be included and why. In the end, we had to cut a lot of deserving people. Difficult decisions had to be made about inclusion and exclusion. Furthermore, despite our hubris, we actually didn’t know everything or everyone! Our list was not perfect.

As one Amazon reviewer noted, for example: “In 2010, the First Presbyterian Church (the oldest building in Wheeling) ended its music program that had survived for 80 years. It [featured] many of the best musicians in Wheeling: David Zapka, Lou Clark, Leanne Knoll, Ralph Porter, Donna Mager Chaffee, Gloria Morris, Luana and Dan Palamatakis, Dale Chaffee, Nick Taylor, Doug

Haigwood, Linda Cowan, Lois Drum and the list goes on and on.”

Indeed, the list can go on and on and on and on. In addition, many people have been “discovered” since 2013 (when *Legendary Locals of Wheeling* was published), who deserved to be included.

Our attempted solution, though only a partial and imperfect one, can be found in this little booklet — a sequel, if you will. Arcadia does not publish such sequels. So we decided to take on the task with this special edition of the *Upper Ohio Valley Historical Review*.

The problem? Murphy’s law remains a thing. This attempt to redress past omissions will inevitably still prove inadequate. And not everyone will be satisfied.

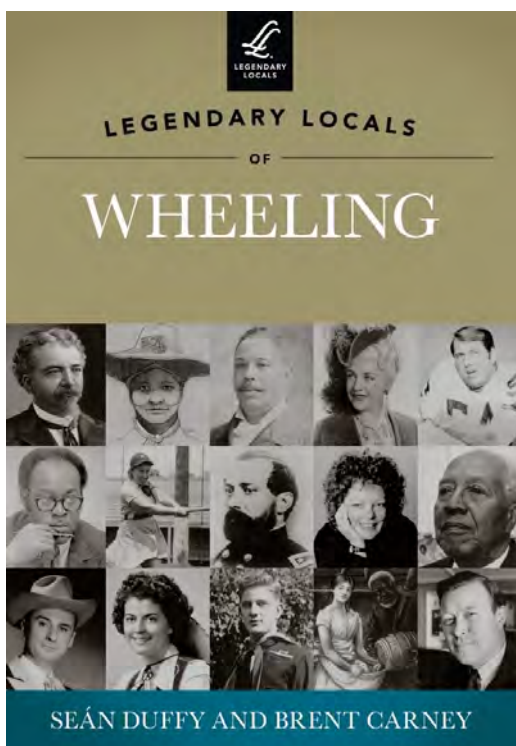
But, on the theory that it’s worth the effort, a sincere if flawed one, I assure you, here we go.

You will note that, this volume contains “Legends” who are not rich, famous (beyond “Wheeling-famous”), powerful, or widely celebrated, like many in the first book. Yes, the second batch of “Hall of Famers” will be found inside, along with scientists, doctors, artists, and entrepreneurs, but standing proudly beside them in these pages are working class heroes: teachers, union members, streetcar drivers, barbers, and even a shoe shiner. Hopefully, Wheeling’s best in all walks of life are represented, and even if you disagree with the choices, you will respect the effort. And if you’re positive worthy people have been left out once again, please drop us a line. After all, as Wheeling continues to produce great people — some legendary — there will always be a need for more sequels.

Respectfully,



Seán Duffy, Editor



By the way, you can still obtain copies of *Legendary Local of Wheeling* through the usual channels, while supplies last. And yes, the library still receives a, typically modest, royalty.

Buy from arcadiapublishing.com | Buy from amazon.com



As a refresher and guide for all the *Legendary Locals* who could be found in the book, here's is an index, including page numbers where they are mentioned. The index for the sequel can be found starting on page ____.

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More Caveats ... Editor’s Note Continued.

Let’s face it, there are a lot more famous people who had roots in the Upper Ohio Valley and not just Wheeling. This includes the likes of crooner/actor Dean Martin (Steubenville), country music star Brad Paisley (Glen Dale), and actor Clark Gable (Cadiz), not to mention sports celebrities like Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz (Follansbee), NFL great Lou Groza and NBA legend John Havlicek (Martins Ferry), and MLB pitchers Joe and Phil Niekro (Blaine, Lansing, Bridgeport), just to name a few.

It’s often claimed that the one hit wonder band Wild Cherry, creators of the earworm number one hit “Play that Funky Music” started in Wheeling. Well, Rob Parissi (lead vocals and guitar), who wrote that smash hit, was from Mingo Junction, and was later a DJ in Wheeling for awhile. The band also played a lot in town. So that’s close.

Then there are the legends who were born in Wheeling but moved away before they could even drink a glass of water. These include actress Joyce DeWitt, astronomer George Herbig, and civil rights activist Virginia Coffey.

Another interesting group includes legends who came here for a specific purpose, stayed awhile, then left. This includes John Amos,

the “Roots” actor who played for the Wheeling Ironmen, King Solomon White, the baseball great born in Bellaire who played sandlot ball in Wheeling for the Green Stockings and other teams. And Moses Fleetwood Walker, an African American baseball legend from Point Pleasant who played in the major leagues way before Jackie Robinson, until the “color line” changed all that. Moreover, legendary filmmaker Lawrence Kasdan spent some time in Wheeling as a child, where, he said, “if you had a bicycle, you owned the town.” True enough.

Indeed, there’s often a fine line one can cross while claiming people as “Wheeling Legends.” Have we crossed it on occasion? Probably. Sorry. But sometimes, you just have to claim them.

It’s also worth noting some of the famous (and infamous) people who were Wheelingites for a day or less. Sure, there were many famous people like Johnny Cash or Loretta Lynn who rolled into town to do a show — hundreds or even thousands over the years at venues like Jamboree USA, the Capitol, the Virginia, or the Civic Center (WesBanco Arena). But there were also many who came here for unusual or at least less mundane reasons.

Not Quite Long Enough—Noteworthy Wheeling Visitors:

1824: The last surviving major general of the American Revolution, the **Marquis de Lafayette**, visited Wheeling, Virginia as part of a farewell tour of the United States.

1850: World renowned opera singer **Jenny Lind** performed at the Fourth Street Methodist Church in Wheeling for **PT Barnum**.

1867: Statesman, abolitionist, and orator **Frederick Douglass** spoke at Washington Hall. He returned to Wheeling for the Emancipation Day celebration in **1884**, when he was introduced by **Dr. Boswell H. Stillyard** (see page 79).

1872: Marsh Wheeling toby cigar aficionado, humorist, and writer **Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)** appeared on stage at Wheeling’s Washington Hall. He later said the Wheeling audience was the

“livest, quickest audience I almost ever saw in my life.”

1873: Tammany Hall's **William Magear “Boss” Tweed** of NYC visited Wheeling mysteriously, staying at the McLure Hotel. Several years later, Tweed donated \$2,000 to the Sisters of the Visitation at Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy. Hmm.

1877: William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody brought his Wild West show to Wheeling 11 times between **1877 and 1901**, staying at the McLure and performing at the Opera House or Wheeling Island Fairgrounds.

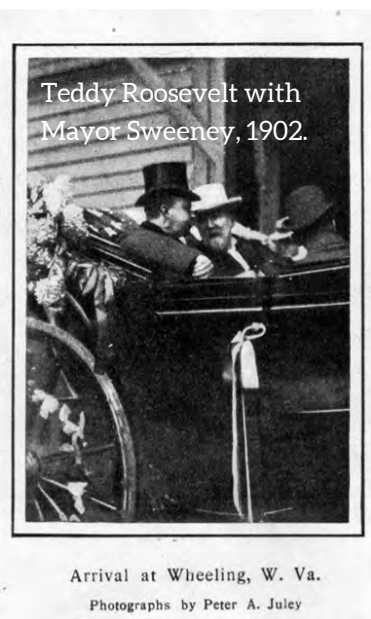
1891: One of the first ever African American Senators, **Blanche K. Bruce**, was in town as guest of honor for Wheeling's Emancipation Day celebration.

1897: Socialist presidential candidate **Eugene V. Debs** spoke at the B. & O. depot and returned in **1900** to deliver his “Labor and Liberty” address at the Market Auditorium.

1902: President Theodore Roosevelt visited Wheeling, speaking from a balcony of the McLure Hotel.

1903: Eccentric Hall of Fame pitcher **George Edward “Rube” Waddell**, hid out in Wheeling, tending bar at Krueger and Nichol's saloon after having won 22 games for the Philadelphia Athletics that season. He was in town to star in the stage comedy “Stain of Guilt” at the Grand. Opera House.

1913: Labor activist **Harriet “Mother” Jones** visited Wheeling to speak at the Victoria Theatre in support of the miners of the Paint Creek Strike and returned in **1915** to speak at Market Audi-



torium for the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly.

1927: Charles Lindbergh visited Wheeling and placed a wreath on the Aviator Statue (Louis Bennett) on the campus of the Linsly Military Institute.

1932: Marian Anderson, one of the world's greatest contralto singers, sang at Madison School as a guest of the Blue Triangle branch of the Y.W.C.A.

1932: Governor and future President **Franklin Delano Roosevelt** drove along the National Road through Elm Grove, stopping to shake the hand of coal miner Tony Firoino, a famous phot-op.

1936: Heavyweight champion **Jack Dempsey** visited Wheeling during a retail grocers convention to promote his chocolate bars and to serve as "Sports Editor for a Day" at the *News-Register*.

1941: big band legend **Cab Calloway** flew to town to attend the funeral of saxophonist **Chu Berry**.



Joe Louis on 12th St., 1943.
Courtesy Val Gundling.

1943: boxing champion **Joe Louis** visited Wheeling to promote the film, "This is the Army," at the Capitol Theatre. .

1950: Senator Joseph McCarthy spoke to the Ohio County Republican Women's Club at the McLure Hotel, declaring: "I have here in my hand a list of 205 that were known ... members of the Communist Party," launching the 1950s red scare.

1952: President **Harry S. Truman** spoke at the B & O station during a Whistle-Stop campaign, returning to Wheeling after his presidency in **1953**, staying with his wife, Bess, at the McLure Hotel during a cross-country road trip.

1952: Republican candidate **Dwight D. Eisenhower** met running mate **Richard Nixon** on a plane at the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport. They left for a rally at Wheeling Island Stadium. Nixon visited town again in **1956, 1960, and 1964.**

1956: Senator **John F. Kennedy** spoke at the Virginia Theater. **JFK** returned in **1960** and in **1962** as president.

1971: Actors **Jimmy Stewart** and **Kurt Russell** were in town for the Court Theatre premier of the film, “Fool’s Parade.”



Jimmy Stewart on Mkt. St, 1971.

1976: Future President **Ronald Reagan** flew into the Wheeling-Ohio County Airport before speaking at the Field House at Wheeling Jesuit University.

2019: Actor **William Sanderson**, E.B. Farnum in the HBO western “Deadwood,” and Larry in the CBS sitcom “Newhart,” came to Lunch With Books at the library to discuss his book, *Yes, I'm That Guy*, about his status as a recognizable TV and movie face.

2022: **Yo-Yo Ma** performed with the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, including a new piece commissioned by the WSO.



JFK in North Wheeling, 1960.

We could go on and on. But that's a fairly impressive list.



Dominic Agostino (1931–2010) Brooklyn, NY native and graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Dominic Agostino moved to Wheeling in 1966, creating Aladdin Food Management Services. The company grew from providing food for Bethany College to operating in ten states with 1,200 employees. Agostino's philosophy was that the quality of employee performance determines the quality of a company's success –

and his employees were regularly given decision-making flexibility. Additionally, he researched and designed standards of production and menu designs for microwave cooking in health care institutions and provided planning and consultation for the first solar energy kitchen in the country. Awards included election to the Wheeling Hall of Fame, Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Management, and two Entrepreneur of the Year commendations. ~Jeanne Finstein

Lisa Allen (b. 1957) Following early career work with the YMCA and Oglebay Park, Wheeling native Lisa Allen stepped into the role of sales representative for the Ziegenfelder Company in 1999. She spent the next few years learning the business, working directly with her father. In 2003, Lisa took on the role of president and chief executive officer of the company, leading the firm through years of product development, expansion, and profitability. Under her leadership, the company experienced exponential growth, expanding production capacity beyond the headquarters in Wheeling and adding two additional manufacturing plants, with the company growing to be a top-ranking water ice brand in the United States. Lisa not only nurtured the external Ziegenfelder Company, she also took on an inspiring



leadership role internally, instilling core values that represented her family and work ethic into the company. She retired as president and CEO in late 2019 but maintained her seat as chair of the board of directors, along with her majority interest in the Ziegelfelder Company. ~Jeanne Finstein



Though a Kentuckian, **Thomas Pollock Anshutz's** (1851–1912) Wheeling ties ran deep. From 1868 to 1872, he lived in Wheeling, the hometown of his mother, and returned often with his wife, Effie Schriver Russell, who was from a prominent Wheeling family. These years would come to shape some of his most important work. Known today as one of America's foremost realist painters, Anshutz studied

at the New York National Academy of Design before heading the painting department at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where he taught some of the best, including Elizabeth Sparhawk-Jones and George Luks, among others. It was Anshutz's unflinching portrayal of factories, farms, and rivers that defined the Ashcan School. But it's his connection to place—especially the landscapes and laborers of West Virginia—that continues to resonate. His 1880 painting *The Ironworkers' Noontime* captures a moment of rest among nail factory workers in Wheeling, offering an intimate glimpse into the lives of industrial laborers. In *Steamboat on the Ohio* (1896), on display at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh, Anshutz offers a vivid portrait of river life in both Cincinnati and Wheeling. Other notable works inspired by Wheeling include *Boys with a Boat, Ohio River near Wheeling, West Virginia* (1880), and *Farmer and His Son Harvesting* (1879). Though he died in 1912, the spirit of his art lives on in the canvases that tell stories of toil, water, steel, and sky. ~Christina Fisanick

Reverend Gordon Battelle (1814–1862), an educator and Methodist minister, arrived in Wheeling in 1859 as pastor of Chapline Street Methodist Church. In this city, Battelle became a prolific and outspoken writer against disunion and slavery. In late 1861, Battelle was named chaplain to the 1st West Virginia Infantry, and soon thereafter served as a delegate to West Virginia’s First Constitutional Convention in Wheeling, where he advocated for improved education and the gradual emancipation of slaves in the new state. Battelle’s vociferous opposition to slavery was recognized by Congress, who refused to admit West Virginia to the Union until the state adopted a resolution for the emancipation of slaves within the state. During the Civil War, Battelle worked to improve conditions in military camps in West Virginia and beyond, investigating sanitary conditions, medical supplies and staffing. During one such trip in 1862 to the camps around Washington, DC, Battelle fell ill with typhoid fever and died.

~Jon-Erik Gilot



Drusilla “Drucie” Petticord Bauer-Turner (1865–1933). Born Drusilla Petticord on a West Liberty farm, “Drucie” grew up to become a formidable and respected female baseball “magnate.” After playing baseball as a child she decided to organize and manage teams herself, including a semi-pro team in the Inter-City League. Drucie ran her baseball empire from her home and business at 876 McColloch Street. Alternately described as a grocery store and boarding house, the “Foundry” was the teams’ meeting place for all home games. In 1918, the Bauers were crowned city champs. They won again in 1920 and 1921, when the team began a rivalry with the Homestead Grays, the popular barnstorming Negro League team from Pittsburgh. Drucie upped her promotional game in 1924, scheduling exhibi-

tion games against the Boston Braves and NY Yankees. Unfortunately, the Boston game was a rain-out, as was the highly anticipated matchup with Babe Ruth's Yankees. Drucie was ready to play ball for the fans, but Yankee manager Huggins refused, fearing injuries to his star players. But the Yankees were impressed by her grit and promised to come back to Wheeling. A financial failure due largely to these rain-outs, the 1924 season would prove to be the team's and Drucie's last, at least as sole proprietor. In 1925, she became half-owner of a new Wheeling semi-pro



club organized by Pittsburgh sportswriter Dick Guy, who revived the Stogie franchise for Wheeling. Guy brought in gritty players like centerfielder Art Rooney of Pittsburgh and his brother Dan. The resurrected Stogies would play home games at Bauer Park in Fulton, but opened on the road in Fairmont, with Mrs. Bauer throwing the ceremonial first pitch. It was downhill from there as the new Stogies finished in second to last place. In 1933, nine years after the big rainout, Ruth and the Yanks really did play in Fulton, returning to Wheeling to play the Stogies in an exhibition game at what was then known as Stogie Park in Fulton. The park that Drucie built, teemed with an estimated crowd of 10,000. The game finished with a downpour as the world champion Yankees prevailed, 6-2. That October, Drusilla Petticord Bauer-Turner, Wheeling's Woman Baseball Magnate, died in Wheeling Hospital. She was buried at Stone Church Cemetery. ~ Seán Duffy

Sallie Maxwell Bennett (1864–1944) was an artist, mother, world traveler, advocate for family rights, and alternate delegate to the 1924 Democratic National Convention. The daughter of Wheeling merchant/philanthropist James Maxwell, who sided



with Virginia during the Civil War, Sallie married Weston attorney and confederate veteran Louis Bennett. She was a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and mother of Louis Bennett, Jr., founder of the West Virginia Flying Corps and Aircraft Factory in 1917. He was West Virginia's only Great War flying ace, killed in action on the Western Front. Sallie commissioned twelve memorials in honor of her son, most notably the chapel in Wavrin, France, where her son died; the Royal Flying Corps Window in Westminster Abbey; *The Aviator* statue by Augustus Lukeman at the Linsly School in Wheeling; the Louis Bennett Public Library in Weston, West Virginia; and Louis Bennett Field, a privately owned airfield near Weston, now owned by West Virginia University. Besides commemorating her son, Sallie offered these memorials in service to the community as "the gift of one mother, for all mothers." ~ Charles Dusch

Karla Boos (b. 1961), a visionary force in American theater, traces her artistic roots to Wheeling—a city that nurtured her passion for performance. Karla graduated from Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy. Under the mentorship of the late Hal O'Leary at Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre, she first discovered the transformative power of live performance. Boos' formative years in Wheeling laid the foundation for a career defined by boundary-pushing creativity. After attending Bethany College, she graduated from the University of Pittsburgh (BA) and the California Institute of the Arts (MFA). In 1990, she founded Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh as a laboratory for new and unique theatrical experiences. Quantum Theatre is known for



staging productions in unconventional spaces. In 2004 Quantum Theatre staged a production of Kafka's *Chimp* at the Pittsburgh Zoo, and in 2019 *King Lear* at the Carrie Blast Furnaces, a retired steel factory. In 2019, she returned to Wheeling with *The Gun Show (Can we talk about this?)* at Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre, bringing her work back to the stage where her journey began. ~ Christina Fisanick



WALTER BURKE

Walter J. Burke, Sr. (1841–1923) was born in County Galway Ireland in 1841. An early Wheeling transportation worker, he was known by his peers as “the original horse car driver.” Burke, who emigrated to Wheeling in 1865, was employed by the Wheeling Traction Company. He started in 1867 on a horse (or mule) drawn 24-seat car along a 4-mile track from South Wheeling to Bridgeport for the Citizens Street Railway company, working 12 hours a day for 12 cents per hour. The cars were lit by oil lamps and the carmen who drove the most fares were given a monthly bonus. In 1874 while driving market street, a gunman jumped into Burke’s car, firing many shots until a passenger, who happened to be the editor of *The Register* newspaper, returned fire. *The Register* had run a story about Mr. Sweeney, one of the directors of the Railway company. Burke was later promoted after refusing to allow the vice president of the company to board without paying his fare. His five sons and a brother also worked for the Traction Company. Burke kept a small flower garden near the West Wheeling trolley barn. He died in 1923 and is buried at Mt. Calvary where he also worked as sexton. ~ Seán Duffy

William Burrus (1936–2018) was born in Wheeling and graduated from Lincoln High School. After service in the United States Army, he joined the postal service in Cleveland, Ohio, quickly



rising to prominence in labor union matters. After climbing the ranks in the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), in 1980 Burrus was elected executive vice president of the APWU, the tenth largest union in the United States, serving in that capacity for 21 years. In 2001, Burrus was elected president of the APWU, becoming the first African American elected president of

any national union by direct balloting of its membership. He worked tirelessly for the rights, safety, and benefit of postal workers across the country. Burrus also served as a vice president of the AFL-CIO, the Black Labor Union, and the A. Philip Randolph Association. *Ebony Magazine* recognized Burrus's achievements by naming him for consecutive years as one of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans. ~Jon-Erik Gilot

Clyde D Campbell (b. 1930). Scientist, educator, wellness advocate and community booster, Clyde D. Campbell earned undergraduate degrees (BS and BA) from West Liberty State College and advanced degrees from North Carolina State and West Virginia. He worked at Mobay Chemical as Senior Research Chemist, and, in 1967, he returned to West Liberty as Chair of the School of Natural Sciences. Subsequently,



he held the post as Dean of Administration, and from 1984 to 1995, he served as West Liberty's president. In the 1999-2000 academic year, he was Interim President of Jefferson Community College. In the 1960s, he was elected to the Ohio County Board of Education, and he also served as its president. In the 1970s he became an advocate for heart health and chaired the Ohio County Heart Association. As college president, he spearheaded the

move to establish and accredit a degree program in nursing and updated the school's dental hygiene and medical technology studies, majors now housed in West Liberty University's Campbell Hall. For 56 years he taught Sunday school classes and served as a guest pastor in area Methodist and Presbyterian churches. He is married to Joan Luhan, and they have one daughter and three grandchildren. ~David Javersak



Stefano R. Ceo (1899–1964), an Italian immigrant, came to Wheeling in 1924, where he was hired to play in the pit orchestra of Earl Summers, Sr. He then became Music Director at Triadelphia District High School. During his 35-year tenure there, the band he directed won first place honors ten years in a row in statewide competitions. And in 1933, his young musicians took first place nation-

al honors, beating out some of the finest bands from some of the largest cities in the country. He also formed an orchestra at Mount de Chantal Academy, founded the Wheeling Junior Symphony Orchestra, and spent several summers teaching music camps at Oglebay Park and at the highly-regarded Interlochen Academy in Michigan. His dedication to his students was manifested in his determination toward excellence. He consistently pushed them to high levels of performance and challenged them with music not attempted by comparable organizations. The quality of the bands and orchestras he led and the accomplishments of so many of his students in the field of music attest to his outstanding dedication. ~Jeanne Finstein

James Buchanan “J.B.” Chambers (1854–1933) lived on a farm in West Alexander, PA, while spending most of his career in banking. He helped organize several local banks and at the time of his death served as president of the First National Bank and Trust



of Elm Grove and vice president of the People's National Bank of West Alexander. In 1924, Chambers created the J.B. Chambers Memorial Foundation to carry on his life's passion to benefit the children of Ohio County, West Virginia, and West Alexander, Pennsylvania. Through his generosity and vision, the foundation has supported the J.B. Chambers Baseball and Softball Complex and the Miracle League

Field at the I-470 sports complex, the J.B. Chambers Performing Arts Center at Wheeling Park High School, the J.B. Chambers Family YMCA on the site of the original family farm in Elm Grove, and the J.B. Chambers Memorial Recreation Park on Sixteenth Street, along with numerous other facilities, children's programs, and scholarships offered through the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, Youth Services System, and Oglebay Institute. ~Jeanne Finstein

Henry Boose Clemens (1843–1923) was born into slavery in Wheeling, Virginia in 1843. His “owner,” Sherrard Clemens was a U.S. Congressman who attended the First Wheeling Convention in 1861 and infamously referred to Abraham Lincoln “a cross between a sandhill crane and an Andalusian jackass.” The town of Sherrard in Marshall County is named after



him, and he was a cousin to a man named Samuel Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. After being freed by the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation, Henry Boose Clemens started working as a barber in Wheeling. In 1872, Henry married Moundsville resident Elizabeth “Annie” Lock, whose grandmother, former slave Mrs.

Mary Kent, was once “owned” by Moses and Lydia Shepherd, and was an eyewitness to the siege of Fort Henry. Annie’s father served in the 3rd Infantry, U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War. Corp. Denton Lock was killed during the 1863 siege of Fort Wagner, a month after Col. Robert Gould Shaw, commander of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment was killed, as depicted in the movie *Glory*. His son-in-law, Henry, was also active in Republican politics, helping to organize Wheeling’s annual Emancipation Day celebrations. He ran unsuccessfully for city council in 1882, 1900, and 1911. As a barber, he operated the Metropolitan Shaving Saloon at Washington Hall where he made a lasting impression. As his obituary declares, “Many men recall the boyhood days when father used to take them to Boose Clemens’s barber shop for a haircut and Boose never seemed to grow weary in spreading a touch of cheerfulness among all, white and colored, whom he met.” Henry Boose Clemens died in 1923 and is buried at Mt. Wood Cemetery. ~ Seán Duffy



Allan Connolly (b. 1944) put himself through Bluefield State College, working at a small supermarket. He earned his MD in education administration from WVU. Connolly moved to Wheeling in 1965 to teach and coach basketball at Clay Junior High School. In 1976, he started teaching at the newly opened Wheeling Park High School. The following year, he was appointed assistant principal. Inducted into the Wheeling Park High School

Athletic Hall of Fame with the Distinguished Patriot Award, he was also inducted into the West Virginia All-Black Schools Sports Association Hall of Fame for Lifetime Achievement in 2011 for his 30 years of outstanding service as a professional educator. He serves on the NAACP Education Committee for Ohio County, and in 2013 received the Martin Luther King, Jr. award from the Upper Ohio Valley Clergy. (WHOF bio)



Alfred A. “Happy” Cooper (1895–1980) was an African American fire-fighter for 32 years, who fought just about every major fire in the city during his tenure. Asked why he became a fire-fighter, Cooped said, “I used to loaf around the Eleventh Street station in the old horse days...It was just sort of fascinating.” He said he was the first African American to take the civil service exam,

entering the service in 1928 at the Eleventh Street station. He served as captain of Engine Company No. 3 at 24th and Eoff Street from 1947 until his retirement. The worst fire he recalled fighting was at Builders Supply at 43rd and Wood Streets, a block-sized building full of turpentine and building supplies. He remembered fighting large blazes at Ease Products on South Wabash Street and Club Diamond on Market Street. He was a WWI veteran, a member of the American Legion, the Elks Club, and the Beau Brummel Club. ~ Seán Duffy

Billy Cox (b. 1941) formed a lifelong friendship with future rock legend Jimi Hendrix when they served together in the U.S. Army. Billy attended Wheeling’s Lincoln School and was influenced by the local music scene. After moving to Nashville, Cox played bass guitar behind some of the greatest musicians of the time, including Sam Cooke, Etta James, and Little Richard. In 1969, Hendrix called on Cox to close out the legendary Woodstock festival. Cox is the only surviving member of both The Jimi Hendrix Experience and often plays with Experience Hendrix, a touring Hendrix tribute band. Cox was inducted into the Nashville Musicians Hall of Fame in 2009 and the West Virginia Music Hall of Fame in 2011. (WHOF bio)





GEO. B. CUNNINGHAM

George Bradley Cunningham, Sr. (1902–1965) was a talented and respected artist and contemporary of well-known Wheeling architects such as Frederic F. Faris, Edward B. Franzheim, Charles W. Bates, and Millard F. Giesey. Cunningham designed structures for the federal government, many of Wheeling’s public buildings, and participated in the planning and execution of important architectural projects (Wheeling Centre Market, Clay School, Linsly Military Institute gymnasium, local airports, Warwood High School gymnasium, fraternal buildings, Warwood Grade School, Wheeling-Ohio

County Building, Glenville State College Library, and the United States Air Force Academy). In 1950, he wrote a series of articles on the Cold War based on his experience in World War II (pilot in the India-Burma-China Campaign) and participation in the Industrial College of the Armed-Services. Cunningham was “considered a draftsman of intuition, intelligence, and power” and known to admire the modernistic/contemporary architectural style but favored Colonial architectural types for the local area. He maintained offices in Wheeling and Florida (where he died in 1965).
~Dr. Charles Julian

Ronald Jacob DiLorenzo (1947–2019) attended Weir High School, where he was an outstanding trumpet player. He attended WVU (BA and MD) as a music major and WVU marching band member. Ron played in many Ohio Valley bands and was front man for the “Shop” band. He became a traveling music teacher for Ohio County Schools in 1969. He also served as Wheeling Park High School’s assistant band director and later became Woodsdale Elementary’s full time music teacher. The West Virginia Board of



Education named Ron the 2007 Paul J. Morris Character Educator of the Year. Ron was also honored as the Wheeling Park High School 1999-2000 Educator of the Year. After he died in 2019, a scholarship was created in his name at Wheeling Park High School. (WHOF bio.)



Long before famed bandleader Cab Calloway ever shuffled his way across a stage, Wheeling-born **Will H. Dixon** (1879–1917) initiated the style of the dancing conductor. Son of a train porter for the McLure Hotel, the Dixon family moved to Chicago when Will was only thirteen. Becoming a “theatrical man,” Dixon took his talents to New York where, while making a living performing in minstrel shows, he

soon began composing and directing his own songs and musical comedies. As the leader of the “first modern jazz band ever heard on a New York stage,” he made his debut as the original dancing conductor in 1905. Following a European tour, Dixon began composing light classical pieces and opened a music publishing company. During the Clef Club’s groundbreaking Carnegie Hall performance, the first time an African America group played in the prestigious venue, Dixon, already regarded as a celebrity in the African-American theater, was among the symphony orchestra’s musicians. He died tragically young at age thirty-eight, leaving behind a legacy in compositions that are still performed today. ~Erin Rothenbuehler

Erin M. Duffy (b. 1968) is a world-renowned scientist and leader in the crucial effort to develop new antibiotics in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR). She grew up in Warwood and earned a BS in Chemistry at Wheeling College and a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry at Yale. Erin began her career in the pharmaceutical industry, where the application of



chemistry has had the most profound impact on human health, joining Pfizer as a Senior Research Scientist. When Nobel Prize-winning work by Yale professor Thomas Steitz was the nidus of a biotech company concept focused on discovering new antibiotic drugs, Erin was tapped to lead the chemistry design effort. Erin rapidly ascended the ranks at Rib-X Pharmaceuticals

(subsequently Melinta Therapeutics), eventually as Chief Scientific Officer. Erin next moved to the research and development leadership role at CARB-X (Combating Antimicrobial Resistance – Accelerator), a non-profit whose mission is to nurture and advocate on behalf of organizations with promising products to counter the threat of AMR. Through Erin’s leadership, CARB-X has significantly expanded its portfolio and increased its scientific breadth and rigor. There is no better testament to her impact than the testimonials of companies in the CARB-X portfolio: “Dr. Erin Duffy has been the lighthouse of scientific excellence and long-term visionary support...”; “[She] stands out among her peers in recognizing and promoting novel approaches yet applying strong economic principles.”; Dr. Duffy shows tremendous compassion and is relentless in trying to find cures for difficult-to-treat bacterial infections.”; and “Her ability to frame and drive these critical [AMR] conversations is...unmatched.” ~Eugene Sun

Michelle Elise Duffy (b. 1966) has had an extensive career primarily as a legitimate stage actress (classical, contemporary, and musical) and vocalist. She was born and raised in Wheeling, went to college in Ohio, got her Equity card in Pittsburgh, and her SAG card and career launch in Chicago. Named for the Andy



Williams cover of the Beatles classic, Michelle still takes great pride in calling herself a Chicago actress. She has appeared in movies such as *Judge and Jury* and *Burning Man: The Musical*. Television credits include *Law & Order*, *Desperate Housewives*, and *House*, among others. Michelle has tread the boards in *Heathers: The Musical*, original off-Broadway production, 2014 and *Leap of Faith*, original Broadway production, 2012. She was nominated for a 1994 Joseph Jefferson Award for Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical for “*West Side Story*” at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook, Illinois. A career highlight occurred on March 16, 2021 when she starred in the Lunch With Books at the Ohio County Public Library production of “*A History of Ireland in Song & Poetry*.”



Glenn Elliott (b. 1971) is a seventh-generation West Virginian and public servant who served as Mayor of Wheeling from 2016 to 2024. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and Georgetown University Law Center, he began his career as a legislative assistant to Senator Robert C. Byrd. After practicing corporate law in Washington, D.C., Elliott returned to Wheeling. His passion for historic preservation and down-

town revitalization led him to purchase the City Bank Building on Market Street and eventually run for Mayor of his hometown. During his time as Mayor, Wheeling was recognized as one of the fastest-growing economies in the state, earning him the “Mayor of the Year” award in 2022 from the West Virginia Municipal League. In 2024, Elliott ran as the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, receiving endorsements from the United Mine Workers of America, the West Virginia AFL-CIO, and former Senator Joe Manchin. Above all, Glenn is proudest to be a father to his son, Harrison, and daughter, Harper, and a husband to his wife, Cassandra. ~Betsy Sweeny



One of the finest Twentieth Century artists from the Wheeling region, **Virginia B. Evans** (1894–1983) was an impressionist and abstract expressionist painter, a glass designer, and an art teacher. From Moundsville, she began her art education at Wheeling's Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy, then at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute School of Fine Arts, and at the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation on Long Island,

New York. She also studied art throughout Europe. During the 1920s and 1930s, Evans exhibited her Impressionist paintings and plein air gouaches to great acclaim. In 1942, she designed for Imperial Glass a line called Cathay Crystal, now regarded as among the best American-made molded crystal. Evans continued her work as a painter and teacher in Florida, and her work is featured at the West Virginia State Museum. ~ Seán Duffy

Sue Seibert Farnsworth (b. 1940), a paragon of civic dedication and professional excellence, was immersed in a tradition of public service from an early age. After graduating from West Virginia University and its College of Law, Farnsworth embarked on a legal career spanning five decades, focusing on wills, trusts, and estates. Her legal acumen was recognized through numerous accolades, including the WVU College of Law's



Justitia Officium Award and the State Bar's Kaufmann Award for her pro bono work. In 2017, she received the West Virginia Bar Association's Award of Merit. Beyond her legal career, Farnsworth's commitment to community development is evident in her extensive public service. In 1992, she broke new ground as the first female commissioner of the Wheeling Park Commission. She was instrumental in founding the Oglebay Foundation in 1996 and

continues to contribute as an active board member. Farnsworth's influence extended to various organizations, including the Oglebay Foundation, Community Foundation of the Ohio Valley, and Wheeling Symphony Board of Directors ~Christina Fisanick



Mary Elizabeth Fassig (Keyser) (1905–1986) was a pioneering figure in the performing arts scene of Wheeling, whose influence extended from the vaudeville stages of the early 20th century to decades of dance education. Determined to pursue a career in dance, Fassig studied in New York City while still in high school, training with a Russian instructor. Throughout the mid-1920s, she performed across the East Coast

and on cruise ships. However, recurrent heart issues from scarlet fever brought her back to Wheeling, where she shifted her focus to teaching. She operated the highly successful Fassig School of the Dance for more than 50 years. Her rigorous training and emphasis on stage presence produced numerous accomplished performers. Some of her students went on to become New York City Rockettes, while others, like NFL Hall of Famer Lou “The Toe” Groza, “Hollywood Squares” game show host Peter Marshall (see page 49), and actress Joanne Dru (see page 49), achieved fame in their respective fields. She passed away in 1986 and is interred at Greenwood Cemetery in Wheeling. ~Christina Fisanick

J. Ross Felton (1926–2017). A man of seemingly boundless imagination and energy, Fairmont native J. Ross Felton was behind many of the innovative ideas in Wheeling in recent memory. He became part of the management team of WWVA radio in 1965, when country music was changing, and the WWVA Jamboree set the tone for a golden



era in Wheeling's country music history. In late 1984, Felton collaborated with Randy Worls to start the Festival of Lights – an idea that transformed not just Oglebay Park but the entire community during the holiday season. Around that same time, Felton and Worls also founded the Wheeling Convention and Visitors Bureau. And a few years later, he took the lead in bringing to Wheeling the Thunderbirds ice hockey team, now known as the Wheeling Nailers. Felton was also one of four incorporators of the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation. During his 18-year tenure on its board and foundation, that organization wooed Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe to relocate to the refurbished Wheeling Stamping building, helping with the city's preservation/revitalization efforts. ~Jeanne Finstein



Jeanne Finstein, Ed.D. (b. 1946) A native of St. Albans, West Virginia, Jeanne Finstein moved to Wheeling in the early 1970s where she taught school at Wheeling Country Day, Triadelphia High School, and Wheeling Park High School, ultimately chairing the Math Department. Finstein's love of history, especially Wheeling's history, began in the 1970s when she and other preservationists started

the Friends of Wheeling, now the state's oldest historic preservation organization. Some of the Friends of Wheeling's first initiatives under the leadership of Beverly Fluty, Mary Ann Hess, Margaret Brennen, Hydie Friend, Finstein, and others, included the revitalization of West Virginia Independence Hall and Wheeling's Centre Market. Since that time, Jeanne has been involved with researching, preserving, and sharing Wheeling's rich history through its vibrant Victorian architecture. Her work has sparked a movement of generations of Wheeling residents who now appreciate and value the city's heritage. ~Susie Nelson



Mike Florio (b. 1965) has parlayed his love of football into becoming one of the game's most respected commentators and writers. Florio created and owns Profootballtalk.com and he hosts an NFL Talk Show "PFT Live" with Chris Simms that airs on the Peacock Network. During the NFL season, Florio appears regularly on pre-game, halftime, and post-game shows on NBC Sports, and he's a frequent radio

guest in major markets across the United States. And it all started here in Wheeling, W.Va. Mike was graduated from St. Michael School (1979), from Wheeling Central Catholic High School (1983), and then he received his undergrad degree from Carnegie Mellon University. He earned his law degree from West Virginia University and practiced for 18 years before he was hired as a sportswriter by ESPN.com in 2000. He then created Profootballtalk.com in late 2001, a website that became affiliated with NBC Sports in June 2009. Florio, who resides in Bridgeport, W.Va., with his wife Jill and son Alex, has published a few books, as well, including *Playmakers: How the NFL Really Works (And Doesn't)* (2022), *Father of Mine* (2023) and *Son of Mine* (2024), novels about mob life in his hometown of Wheeling, and *On Our Way Home* (2023), a Christmas novel. He has appeared twice at the Ohio County Public Library for "Lunch With Books" programs. ~Steve Novotney

Shawn Fluharty (b. 1984) is a Democratic member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing District 5. Raised in Wheeling, he attended West Virginia University, earning his journalism degree in 2006 and his law degree in 2009. First elected in 2014, Fluharty has been re-elected multiple times, most recently in 2024, securing 57%



of the vote. He presently serves as the minority whip in the House and is the minority vice chair for both the House Rules Committee and the House Judiciary Committee. Outside the legislature, he is president of the National Council of Legislators from Gaming States. Known for his outspoken advocacy, Fluharty is a passionate representative for his community. Outside of the legislative session, he is a practicing attorney, an enthusiastic WVU sports fan, and the proud owner of his rescue dog, Bluto. ~Betsy Sweeny



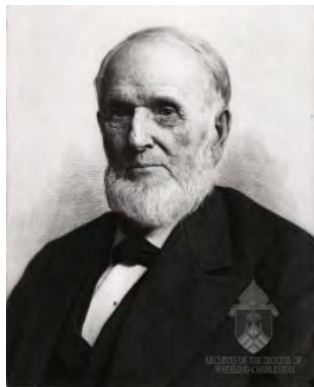
Harriette Shull “Hydie” Friend (b. 1945)

was at the vanguard of plans to use historic preservation as an economic development tool in Wheeling. Hired by the City of Wheeling, Hydie secured funding and oversaw the renovation of the historic Centre Market Houses. She also was responsible for the development of Wheeling's bike trails and the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater. In 2002, Hydie became executive director of the Wheeling National Heritage Area Corporation, serving in that role until 2011. During her tenure, she helped get the City of Wheeling's official designation as a National Heritage Area by the United States Congress. She also guided the construction of Wheeling's Heritage Port and the installation of interpretive signage on the Heritage Trail and in Wheeling's neighborhoods. She has assisted with major historic rehabilitation projects such as the Wheeling Stamping Building and the Stone Center. Capping her career, Hydie led the effort to save the historic Capitol Theatre. (WHOF bio.)

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Dr. John Frissell (1810–1893) revolutionized medical care in West Virginia from his office in Wheeling. After studying medicine at Berkshire College, Frissell relocated to Wheeling in 1836 to establish a medical practice. Recognized for his surgical skill, he performed several ‘first’ operations in West Virginia, including repairs to a harelip and upper jaw, club foot, strabismus, and kid-

ney stones, and in 1853 became the first surgeon in the state to use chloroform for surgical purposes. Frissell was instrumental in opening two early hospitals in Wheeling – the Wheeling Dispensary, in 1845, and later the Infirmary, which accommodated private patients. In 1850, Frissell served as the first surgeon at Wheeling Hospital, and later as medical superintendent of the military prisoners and sick soldiers at the Athenaeum Prison and at Wheeling Hospital. He later served as a charter member and first president of the West Virginia Medical Association prior to his death on November 16, 1893. ~Jon-Erik Gilot



"THE KARATE KID" © 1984 Columbia Pictures, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Courtesy Columbia Pictures.

Robert Scott Garrison (1960–2019) “Get him a body bag!” was Rob Garrison’s famous line in the 1984 movie *The Karate Kid*, and he loved to tell the story about how the phrase that made him famous came about. “We were in studio for voice work to fill parts of the movie, and one of them was the competition fight scene,” he explained. “It just came out of my mouth

when I watched the scene with the directors, and we recorded right then and there, and it stuck. People said it back to me my whole life.” Garrison, who passed away in late September 2019 as the age of 59, appeared in several other films, including *Bru-baker* (1980), *The Karate Kid Part II* (1986), and *Iron Eagle* (1986). He also appeared on television shows *Coach*, *St. Elsewhere*, *Kung Fu*, and *Macgyver*, and he appeared in a scene in *Cobra Kai* in 2018 during which his character passed away and

was placed in a body bag. Once Garrison returned to his hometown of Wheeling, he volunteered his talents at Oglebay Institute's Towngate Theatre, and he was hired as an actor for several commercials for local businesses. ~Steve Novotney



Sister Joanne Gonter, V.H.M (b. 1934), a graduate of the former Mount de Chantal Visitation Academy, was born in Wheeling in 1934. In 1952, she entered the monastery at Mount de Chantal, where she remained for the next 58 years. During that time, she served as a teacher of chemistry, logic, philosophy, physics, and religious studies for 49 years, served two terms as superior of the Visitation community at Mount de Chantal,

and has served as director of Mount de Chantal alumnae for the past fifty years. Not only shaping young minds, Gonter continued her own education as a graduate of the first class at Wheeling College (1959), and advanced studies at Marshall University. She served numerous religious and civil boards at the local and diocesan level. Following the 2008 closure of the academy, Gonter and the remaining sisters at Mount de Chantal moved to Georgetown Visitation Monastery in Washington, DC, where Gonter continues to lead a life of service to God and others.

~Jon-Erik Gilot

J. William Grimes (b. 1941) was born in Wheeling and graduated Linsly Military Institute, West Virginia Wesleyan College, and the St. John's University School of Law. He joined ESPN in 1981, leading its growth into the nation's largest and most profitable cable television network with the round-the-clock sports programming. During his tenure as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1982-88, ESPN became a national leader in



the industry. When he assumed control of the company, ESPN was a big financial loser, until Grimes made deals with the NFL, NHL and Major League Baseball. Within a few years, ESPN was making a profit. Today, ESPN is worth in excess of \$1-billion and it continues to grow. It reaches more than 63 million homes and covers more than 65 sports. (WHOF bio).



William J.B. Gwinn (1897–1976), a self-described “Rail fan,” was born in Summers County, WV. He later moved to Huntington to work as a motorman for the Ohio Valley Electric Railway Company. Gwinn moved to Wheeling in 1920 to work for the B & O Railroad but transitioned to street cars that same year. Gwinn worked for the Wheeling Traction Company, then its successor, the Co-Operative Transit Com-

pany on the Martins Ferry line along with the Wheeling-Warwood-Steubenville line right up until the last day of operation on November 23, 1947. Beginning in 1918, he painstakingly documented the Streetcar (and early bus) era with the passion of a collector, “swapping” for film and prints or personally taking, on his trusty box camera, thousands of photographs of street cars, trains, and buses operating in the Wheeling area. Gwinn stored thousands of negatives in the drawers of his old roll top desk, as well as thousands of prints in numerous albums in his home on Main Street in Bridgeport, Ohio. According to a 1951 newspaper article, Gwinn had accumulated an incredible 35,000 plus transportation photographs at that point. Gwinn himself made the switch to bus driver, retiring in 1962. After he retired, he moved to Bridgeport, Ohio. He died in 1976. His collection lives on as a part of the OCPL Archives. ~Seán Duffy



Alga Myrtle Wade Hamlin, MD (1900–1983) was born in Moundsville, West Virginia and graduated in 1931 from MeHarry Medical College, one of the nation’s oldest and largest historically black academic health science centers located in Nashville, Tennessee. After Interning at Lincoln Hospital in Durham, North Carolina, Dr. Wade moved to Wheeling and married Dr. Robert M. Hamlin (see below) in 1937.

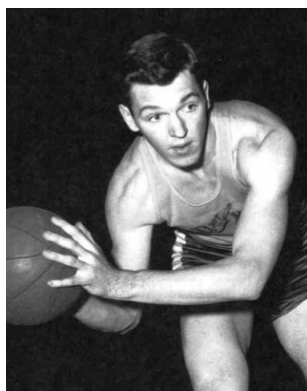
Dr. Alga Wade Hamlin was known as a “prominent woman specialist” and conducted clinics on the health of babies, children, and women throughout the Ohio Valley. In 1937, she gave an address with her husband for “National Negro Health Week,” an event sponsored by the segregated Blue Triangle Branch of the YWCA in recognition of an observance created by Booker T. Washington. She died in 1983 and is buried next to her husband in Mt Rose Cemetery in Moundsville. ~Seán Duffy

Robert Maceo “R.M.” Hamlin, MD (1898–1953) was born in Charleston, West Virginia and graduated West Virginia State College, earning his dentistry degree from Howard University. Dr. Hamlin settled in Wheeling and started practicing Dentistry in 1924. He became active in politics, and was elected President of the Negro Republican



Club of Ohio County. In an August 1944 article in the *Intelligencer*, Dr. Hamlin pushed for better housing; better training for industrial jobs; and lamented the fact that there were no entertainment or recreational facilities for African Americans. Dr. Hamlin married Alga Myrtle Wade (see previous page) in 1937. He ran

unsuccessfully for Wheeling City Council in 1943. A WWII veteran, Dr. Hamlin was elected Commander of American Legion Post 89. In 1949, local veterans, both white and black, petitioned city council to name a segregated swimming pool for black residents — that apparently was never built — in his honor, calling him “a revered leader in civic, veteran, and other bodies.” Dr. Hamlin died in 1953 and is buried alongside his wife at Mt Rose Cemetery in Moundsville. ~Seán Duffy



John B. “Jay” Handlan (1928–2013) was one of the most prolific basketball scorers in major college history. The 1946 Triadelphia grad became only the third major college player to score more than 2,000 career points at Washington & Lee. He also led the nation in free throw accuracy at 86.0 per cent. Handlan was drafted in 1952 by the Indianapolis Olympians of the NBA but

opted to play in the National Industrial Basketball League for the Akron Goodyear Wingfoots since they provided full-time jobs for the athletes. (WHOF bio).

Mary Ann Hess (1930–2002) The mother of six, Mary Ann Hess still had time to devote to volunteerism and was active in Friends of Wheeling, the Junior League of Wheeling, the League of Women Voters, the Herb Society, and Meals on Wheels. Following her passing, her children created the Hess Family Foundation, with special emphasis on philanthropy, charity, and volunteerism.



One of its most significant results was the establishment of Liza’s Place, named for Mary Ann’s daughter, which provides hospice

services. Project HOPE, another support recipient, ensures access to medical care for unsheltered people. Also in support of quality of life, grants in her name have funded Youth Services System, the Lazarus House for addiction recovery, House of Hagar for hospitality and temporary housing, and NAMI of Wheeling for those with mental health challenges. Based on her own interests, support has also been provided for Oglebay Park and Institute, Wheeling Country Day School, Wheeling University, the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra, and Friends of Wheeling. The recurring theme is to improve quality of life within the Upper Ohio Valley.
~Jeanne Finstein



Born in Wheeling, **Walter B. Hilton** (1877–1934) was the editor and publisher of *The Wheeling Majority*, a socialist newspaper. At the turn of the twentieth century, as working conditions deteriorated in Wheeling’s mines and factories, organized labor searched for answers to issues like over-long hours, unsafe conditions, and child labor. Responding to these concerns, Hilton created *The Wheeling Majority* in 1909 as a voice for workers. The

newspaper, with the slogan “For People Who Plod with Plow or Pick or Pen,” was the official organ of the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly (see page 61), the nation’s first central labor body (see Valentine Reuther, page), with which it shared a Market Street office. It was also the official organ of the West Virginia Federation of Labor. Printing articles on worker grievances, unfair business practices, and controversial issues like woman suffrage and voting rights, the “Majority” trumpeted its status as “The only Wheeling newspaper not backed by capitalists,” also boasting “we have no blue pencil” (a dig at the Wheeling social club for well-connected and typically wealthy men). Following the lead of Eugene V. Debs, Hilton ran unsuccessfully for West Virginia governor in 1912 on the Socialist Party ticket. After *The*

Wheeling Majority folded in 1920, Hilton was successfully involved in the leadership of several businesses, including The Real Estate Finance Company, Wheeling Savings & Loan Association, and Building and Loan Life Insurance Company. As a young man Hilton was a tinsmith, a reporter for the *Intelligencer*, and a veteran of the Spanish American War. ~Seán Duffy



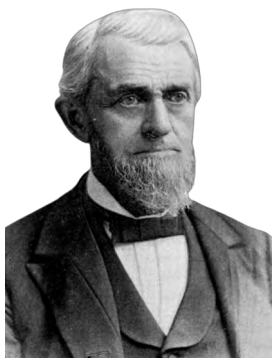
John W. Holliday (1840–1882) was born and raised in Wheeling. Following the outbreak of the Civil War, Holliday quickly enlisted in the 20th Ohio Infantry, and at the expiration of his term reenlisted in the 2nd Ohio Infantry. Displaying marked ability and leadership qualities, Holliday was transferred to the 15th West Virginia Infantry and promoted to the rank of first lieutenant. His ascent in the 15th regiment

continued, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. At the Battle of Cedar Creek in late 1864, Holliday was grievously wounded, suffering from the effects for the remainder of his life. Following the Civil War, Holliday married and settled in Steubenville where he worked as a nailer, and like many of his fellow Union army veterans, was active in Republican politics. Following his death on November 27, 1882, Wheeling Post No. 12 of the Grand Army of the Republic was named the J.W. Holliday Post in his honor. ~Jon-Erik Gilot

Lydia Wilson “Mother” Holliday (1802–1899) was a native of Delaware, and arrived in Wheeling in 1833, where she raised seven children. In the spring of 1861, she volunteered as a nurse at Camp Carlile on Wheeling Island, where she cared for the new recruits congregating there. Three of her sons went on to enlist, including John W. Holliday (see above).



Her nursing work continued at Wheeling until 1864, when she transferred to Virginia to nurse the sick and wounded during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Her bravery and work even under enemy fire endeared “Mother” Holliday to the soldiers she treated. Refusing compensation for her service during the war, Holliday was active in the Women’s Relief Corps, and her memory carried by the Grand Army of the Republic, who helped her to secure an army pension in 1893. When Holliday died on October 5, 1899, six Union army veterans served as pallbearers. ~Jon-Erik Gilot



Connecticut born **Chester Dorman Hubbard** (1814–1891) moved to Wheeling as a child in 1919, where his father opened a lumber and grist mill. After college, Chester worked in the mill then partnered to form the Bank of Wheeling (later German Bank), serving as its president. He had important roles in other Wheeling businesses, including Crescent Iron Mill, Wheeling Hinge Company, Wheeling Iron and Nail Company, and Logan Drug Company.

Elected to the 1861 Virginia Convention, he opposed secession, then was a delegate to the Wheeling Convention of 1861 and the West Virginia constitutional convention, helping to achieve statehood. Hubbard then served in the West Virginia senate in 1863 and 1864 and was elected to US Congress in 1865. He was a trustee of the Linsly Institute and the Wheeling Female College. ~Seán Duffy

Chester R. Hubbard (1905–1984) was a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates for eight years and the State Senate for 12 years, and was well aware that calm reason garnered more votes than table-pounding or bombastic rhetoric. Hubbard enjoyed a distinguished career in state politics and was also a community leader in the city of Wheeling. Obtaining his law degree

from West Virginia University, Chester Hubbard practiced law for more than half a century. He was named by his fellow Republicans as senate minority leader in his last term of office (1971-75). He was a stalwart supporter of legislation upgrading the state's public education system and contributed to the improvement of strip-mining law and to Black Lung legislation. When he retired from the Senate he continued to practice law in Wheeling, where he died in 1984. (WHOF Bio).



Doug Huff (b. 1943). A pioneer in national, state, and local high school sports media coverage, Doug Huff was a daily newspaper sports editor and columnist in Wheeling, a widely-read contributor to national publications, and an author and historian. Huff authored national high school reports, pre-season All-America teams, top college recruits, and national team rankings for football, boys basketball, and baseball for *Street & Smith's* magazines from 1975-2008. He wrote for numerous publications, including *The Sporting News*, *USA Today*, *Sports Illustrated*, *ESPN*, *The New York Times*, etc. He authored the first state all-sports reference book and contributed to an estimated 30 other books. Huff was sports editor and columnist for the *Intelligencer* and the original curator for the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Sports Museum. A life member of the West Virginia Sports Writers Association, he was on the board of directors of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association and Football Writers Association of America. (WHOF bio).

Carl Richard Huss (1925–1996) grew up in South Wheeling, graduated Wheeling High School in 1943, and attended Parks Air

College in Ill., before serving from 1944-46 in the Army Air Corps. Huss earned his BS in aeronautical engineering from West Virginia University in 1949. He was a member of the NASA Space Task Force Group and the original retro-fire officer in the Mercury program. His calculations made possible the pinpoint landings of Gordon Cooper, John Glenn and other early astronauts. After his Mercury assignments, Huss worked in the



NASA Mission Planning and Analysis Division for the Apollo Lunar Landing Missions, Skylab (Space Lab), Apollo-Soyuz and the Space Shuttle program. He retired from the Johnson Space Center in 1982, then worked in the private aerospace industry. In 1982 he was named a Distinguished West Virginian. He also received the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal and the NASA Presidential Medal of Freedom. He died in 1996, in Nashville, Tenn. (WHOF bio).

Eliza Hughes (1817–1882) first became interested in medicine while reading her brother Alfred’s medical books. Knowing the prejudice widely entertained against women adopting medicine as an occupation, she delayed formal study until she was in her late 30s. She first attended a course of lectures at the Homoeopathic Medical College in Cleveland, Ohio, and later graduated from the Pennsylvania Medical College in Philadelphia, specializing in homeopathic medicine. This accomplishment made her the first female graduate of any medical school in the state of Virginia, but she was never admitted to any official medical society. Following graduation, she returned to Wheeling and established herself as a medical practitioner, at first in partnership with her brother. Eliza and her brothers Alfred and Thomas were staunch supporters of the Confederacy during the Civil War. All three eventually but reluctantly signed the Oath of Allegiance to the Union. Before signing, Alfred was imprisoned for seven months

and left the area after his release, but Eliza continued her medical practice in Wheeling until the time of her death. ~Jeanne Finstein



Charles L. Ihlenfeld (1908–1989) graduated Wheeling High School, West Virginia University and its College of Law. He became Ohio County prosecuting attorney in 1940 and was re-elected in 1944 while serving in the U. S. Army in World War II. A member of Wheeling City Council from 1960 through 1967, he served as mayor from 1964 to '67. He was proud of the fact that the Market Plaza was completed while he was mayor. He was the

first United States magistrate for the Northern District of West Virginia, serving in that capacity for eight years. He was once chairman of the Ohio County Democratic Executive Committee and president of the West Virginia Young Democrats. He also served as chairman of the West Liberty State College Foundation, Inc. Ihlenfeld, who died in September 1989, was inducted posthumously into the St. George Tucker Brooke Society at the West Virginia University College of Law. (WHOF bio).

Ashby Jackson (1873–1941). Born in Haywood, Virginia, Ashby Jackson became Wheeling's first black firefighter, starting his service in 1897. He served alone in that capacity for twenty-two years before being joined by fellow African-American firemen John Doffmeyer in 1919 and Archibald Johnson in 1920. Jackson also worked as a bail bondsman in the city. The *Intelligencer* wrote that he "not only has a record for being a faithful city employee but he has perhaps assisted more colored people — also hundreds of white men — than any one negro in this city." Eventually ascending to the rank of Captain at Chemi-



cal Engine House #7 on 11th Street, Captain Jackson served for thirty-eight years, retiring from the Wheeling Fire Department in 1935. A man who dedicated his life to public service, he ended his career acting as bailiff to Federal Judge William Baker before passing in 1941. ~Erin Rothenbuehler



David T. Javersak (b. 1945) grew up in Weirton, a steel company town, where his father spent 35 years in the steel mill and his mother worked for a branch of Stone and Thomas. David himself spent eight summers working in the mill, paying his way through West Liberty College. His industrial background led him to do a study on labor for his doctoral dissertation, *The Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly: the formative years, 1882-1915*. He spent a year and a half in graduate school in Hawaii, then completed his PhD in history at West Virginia University. He is dean emeritus of liberal arts and professor emeritus of history at West Liberty University, where he developed a popular series on the history of Wheeling that he reprised for the first ever People's University Series at the Ohio County Public Library. The videos from the series on the library's website even inspired a gentleman from Australia to complete his doctoral thesis on Wheeling's history. Javersak's work also inspired Wheeling Park High School teacher Ryan Stanton to create a Wheeling history series for his students and for the community. For these reasons, among others, Dr. Javersak can truly be called "Wheeling's Historian." He is also the author of *History of Weirton, West Virginia* (1999) and *West Liberty: from Academy to University: a History* (2009). ~ Seán Duffy

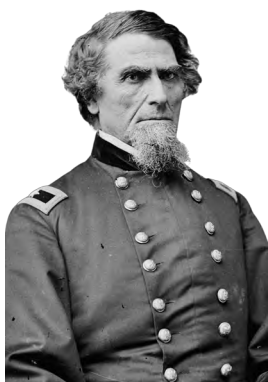
Harriet B. Jones, MD (1856–1943) A leader in women's and public health, Dr. Jones was the state's first licensed female phy-

sician and was a member of the State Medical Association, Ohio County Medical Society, and American Medical Association when there were few female physicians. Following graduation from the Women's Medical College in Baltimore in 1875, she served as the assistant superintendent of the state hospital in Weston from 1888 to 1892. Returning to Wheeling, she built and ran Wheeling's first women's hospital at 15th and Jacob Streets for more than 20 years, specializing in gynecology. As the first president of the Ohio County Anti-Tuberculosis League, she traveled the state by rail and car to educate citizens on preventing the disease. Advocating woman suffrage, she was an officer in the WV Equal Suffrage Association. After women won the right to vote, she was elected to the WV House of Delegates in 1924 and served two terms. She was active in the WV Federation of Women's Clubs and the Women's Christian Temperance Union and was instrumental in getting WVU to admit women. ~Jeanne Finstein



Harry H. Jones (1887–1974) was born in Wheeling, graduated Lincoln School then Oberlin College in 1914. He became a teacher of history and civics at Lincoln before completing his law degree at Howard University in 1929. Jones was editor of a Wheeling African American newspaper known as *The Advocate*. He wrote for *The Wheeling Majority*, a popular socialist newspaper (see page 39), for *The Pittsburgh Courier*, a nationally respected black newspaper, and for the *The Crisis*, the official publication of the NAACP, edited by W.E.B. Du Bois, for whom he wrote articles under the title, “The Negro Before the Courts.” Jones was elected

President of the Wheeling branch of the NAACP, served as the West Virginia field supervisor of the “Civilian Defense for Negro Activities,” held the federal position of Clerk, Office of Records of Deeds, Wheeling, and was a member of both the Wheeling Zoning Commission and the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. In 1936 he delivered a speech titled “Wheeling’s Twentieth Man,” on WWVA Radio, a crucial document about black life in Wheeling in the Jim Crow era. The typewritten speech is housed on the Ohio County Public Library’s Archives. He married Edith Walker Redman in 1942. Harry H. Jones wrote a column titled, “Along the Color Line,” which ran in the *Wheeling News-Register* from 1946 to 1948. In 1960, he was appointed Librarian of the Ohio County Law Library until his retirement in 1971. Harry H. Jones died in 1974 at the age of 87 and is buried at Greenwood Cemetery. ~ Seán Duffy



General Benjamin Franklin Kelley (1807–1891) was born in New Hampshire and relocated to Wheeling in 1826. After relocating to Philadelphia in 1851, Kelley was called back to Wheeling ten years later to command the 1st Virginia Infantry. With his command, Kelley was engaged in the first land battle of the Civil War at Philippi, West Virginia, where he received a dangerous chest wound. Originally thought to be a mortal, Kelley’s

wound healed, and he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Kelley spent the remainder of the Civil War principally engaged in guarding the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in Maryland and West Virginia. In February 1865 he was captured at Cumberland, Maryland, and exchanged the following month, receiving a brevet rank of major general for his wartime service. After the war, Kelley worked for the Internal Revenue Service, served as the first superintendent of Hot Springs Reservation in Arkansas, and as a claims examiner for the U.S. Pension Bureau. He died on

July 16, 1891, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. ~Jon
-Erik Gilot



Rosemary Ketchum (b. 1983) Born in New Cumberland, West Virginia, Rosemary Ketchum spent her early years in East Liverpool, Ohio, before moving to Wheeling in 2010. Following a devastating house fire that same year and firsthand experiences with homelessness and poverty, she became deeply committed to advocating for the most vulnerable members of her community. Rosemary earned a degree in psychology

from Wheeling Jesuit University and spent several years working in the mental health field before running for public office. In 2020, she made history as the first openly transgender elected official in West Virginia when she won a seat on the Wheeling City Council. Throughout her tenure, she championed issues of equity, inclusion, and civic engagement, working to bridge divides and strengthen local governance. Following her time in public office, Rosemary became the executive director of the West Virginia Nonprofit Association, where she leads statewide advocacy efforts to support and empower nonprofits. Rosemary remains a voice in regional and national conversations on representation, democracy, and social justice, continuing her lifelong commitment to meaningful and generational change. ~Jeanne Finstein

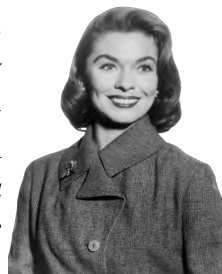
Forrest H. Kirkpatrick (1905–1998) was a well-respected educator, industrialist and community leader. He was a graduate of Bethany College; held a master's degree and doctorate from Columbia University; and undertook graduate studies in England. He was a dean and professor at Bethany for 25 years. Later, he was a visiting professor at



West Virginia University and taught summer courses at four other universities. Outside academia, Kirkpatrick worked for the Radio Corporation of America as general manager of personnel administration and as educational consultant. As an executive with Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. from 1952-1976, he served as a vice president and a member of the board. After his retirement from industry, he returned to Bethany as an adjunct professor and dean of faculty. Kirkpatrick was the first chairman of the Wheeling Hall of Fame Board and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992. He served on the WVU Board of Governors, the West Virginia Commission on Higher Education and many other boards. An ordained minister, he was an elder and trustee of Bethany Memorial Church. ~Linda Comins



Ralph Pierre LaCock (1926–2024), better known as **Peter Marshall** and his sister, **Joan Letitia LaCock** (1922–1996), better known as **Joanne Dru**, were two Hollywood celebrities born in Clarksburg, West Virginia, who lived in Wheeling for a time before achieving fame and fortune. Both studied at the Mary Elizabeth Fassig Studio (see page 30). A successful actor and comedian, Marshall was best known as a game show host, most notably for the original *Hollywood Squares*, 1966 – 1981. Dru was an acclaimed film and television actress, best known for the movies *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (with John Wayne), *Red River* (with Montgomery Clift), and *All the King's Men* (with John Ireland). ~Seán Duffy



Everett Astor Lee (1916–2022) began taking violin lessons on the Island at a very early age. His instructor, Roger Walters, saw potential in the child and upon the family's migration to Cleveland in 1927, encouraged Lee's parent to continue fostering their

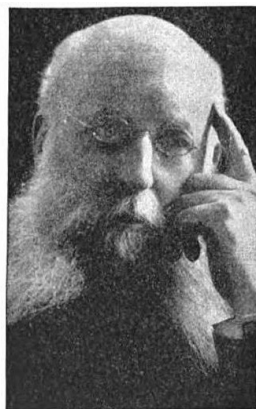
son's musical education. Developing into an accomplished violinist, Lee attended the Cleveland Institute of Music, Julliard, Tanglewood, Columbia University, and was a Fulbright Scholar. By 1944, he earned the spot of concertmaster for Leonard Bernstein's debut of *On the Town*. A chance encounter put Lee on the stage as conductor for the production, making him the first African American to conduct a major Broadway production. Breaking more barriers, Lee would become the first African American to conduct a major symphony orchestra in the south, and the first African American to conduct a major opera company in the United States. Fighting racial barriers, Lee formed an inclusive symphony in New York before moving to Europe. Conducting more than 1,000 works over a 50-year career, Lee would go on to guest conduct for many orchestra who had denied him an audition as a violinist years earlier based on the color of skin, stating, "If I can't join you, then I will lead you." Rediscovered by his hometown in 2016, Lee was interviewed for an ArchivingWheeling.com feature published on his 100th birthday. A few days later, the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra dedicated one of its Summer Concert Series performances to him and in 2018, WVU awarded Lee an honorary Doctorate of Music.. ~Erin Rothenbuehler



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The Leightons. One of the largest and most prestigious glass companies in America was located in South Wheeling. JH Hobbs, Brockunier and Company is remembered for its versatility, making everything from cut lead crystal and pressed tableware to colorful art glass. Chemists played an important role in glass factories, and the Leighton family was among the most successful in the country. **William S. Leighton, Sr.** (1808–1891) came to America from England in the 1830's. He joined Hobbs

as a factory superintendent and partner in 1863. In 1864 he perfected a soda lime glass formula used for pressing glass that had the clarity of lead crystal but could be produced at a quarter of the cost. This invention revolutionized the American glass tableware industry. Like his father, **William Leighton, Jr.** (1833–1911) came to Wheeling to work as a chemist at Hobbs. Eventually he became a managing partner and plant manager. William Leighton, Jr. held several design patents for Hobbs glass patterns and was responsible for most of the colors and glass formulas used in the factory. A graduate of Harvard, he was known for writing poetry. In fact, whenever a glass formula failed, Hobbs workers joked that there was “too much poetry in the batch.” In 1883, Leighton wrote the Soldiers' Monument Poem that he then read at the dedication of the Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument at “Capitol Square” in front of the old state capitol (city building) at 16th and Chapline Streets. ~Holly McCluskey



WILLIAM LEIGHTON, JR.



Don Levenson (1919–1978) A Pittsburgh native with a degree in electrical engineering, Don Levenson worked on radar during World War II. His ‘Echo Box’ invention was used during the war to test a system that warned of attacking planes. For this work, he received a presidential citation. In 1947, he moved to Wheeling and became vice president of his family’s business, Reichart Furniture Company. Still interested in engineering, he experimented with community antenna television, in 1951 running a cable from the hill above Oakmont to supply feeds of Pittsburgh stations to his neighbors. Later, he broadened that service as the Wheeling Antenna Company (WACO). On November 4, 1952, WACO broadcast the first ca-

ble television signal to downtown Wheeling, showing the election of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Within a year, WACO was able to offer customers multiple channels, putting Wheeling on the map as being among the first cities in the country with cable television. Levenson and WACO also donated cameras and audio equipment for council chambers and electronic equipment for the Wheeling police and fire departments. ~Jeanne Finstein



Howard W. Long (b. 1934) Following high school at Wheeling's McKinley Vocational School and six years in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Howard Long worked in sheet metal construction for 12 years before founding Coronet Foods in Wheeling in 1965. He launched his business with "three employees and no customers," but his drive and the service that he established resulted in Coronet becoming a leader in the vegetable processing field.

As Coronet broadened its horizons, Long founded California-based KGM Harvesting and Premium companies, leading growers and suppliers of iceberg lettuce and other vegetables. Later sources for both winter and summer vegetables included companies in Britain and sources in Israel, Spain, France, and Holland, with Coronet providing lettuce for McDonalds franchises both in the U.S. and abroad. Listed in *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, Long also owned a number of patents on vegetable packaging machinery. On a supervised wellness program after suffering a coronary, Long developed an interest in physical fitness, inspiring him to donate \$1 million for a wellness center that was named in his honor. ~Jeanne Finstein

Michael "Mike" Mahoney (1874–1934) was born in Wheeling and was a steelworker who joined the Amalgamated Association of Iron Steel and Tin Workers, becoming a leader in that union's Crescent Lodge. He also served as president of the Ohio Valley



MICHAEL MAHONEY

Trades and Labor Assembly, and was a leader in local democratic politics. In 1904, when the city of Wheeling took a vote on whether to pass a levy and accept money from Pittsburgh Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie to build a library, Mahoney and other members of the OVTLA vehemently opposed the idea, remembering the Homestead strike and their brothers in the Amalgamated Association who were killed by Pinkerton “detectives” hired by Carnegie’s partner, Henry Clay Frick. Mahoney stood in defiance at a meeting, declaring: “The working class must vote no so there will be one place on this great green planet where Andrew Carnegie can’t get a monument with his money.” The levy was defeated. Seven years later, the city built its own library. Mahoney was also a member of the OVTLA committee that raised funds for the Augustus Pollack memorial, accepting contributions from no sources outside of organized labor. Pollack, a stogie magnate, was that rare union-friendly owner, and his monument at Heritage Port is thought to be the only one ever erected by labor for a business owner. Mahoney died from injuries in 1934 after being struck by a car outside his McCulloch Street home. He was 60 years of age. ~Seán Duffy

Hugh E. “Mack” McConkey (1882–1939) was known as the “Dean of Ohio Valley Baseball.” He organized numerous semi-pro baseball teams in Wheeling for more than thirty years, developing talent for major league baseball. A stogie maker for Marsh as a young man, McConkey also operated a cigar shop, confectionary, and news stand at 146 Sixteenth Street next to his home. Known as the “Macks,” his



MR. M'CONKEY

baseball teams played many fierce sandlot matches against their chief rival the “Bauers” teams led by Drucie Bauer (see page 16) and professional Negro League teams like the Homestead Grays. McConkey collapsed and died of a heart attack near home plate at Pleasanton Field while getting his team ready for a game against the Bridgeport Merchants on July 5, 1939. The league postponed all games for ten days until a memorial game was played at Fulton Field, the Macks losing 10-6 to a local all-star team. A monument to Mack, paid for by local ball players, stands near the Belle Isle diamond on Wheeling Island. ~Seán Duffy

ONE OF FIRST CLUBS TO BEAR MACK'S NAME



The late Hugh E. McConkey's devotion to sandlot ball extends back well over a quarter century, for pictured above is one of his earliest, if not the first team he placed on the field under his name, the McConkeys of 1908. This team

included on its roster, first row, left to right: Aaron Tidball, Leo Belts, George Doerr, Al Smith; back row: Dick Naselt, N. Bozinsky, Herman Belts, Manager McConkey, Stanley Wilson, Al Kross, Clem West.



Born in South Wheeling, **Irene Doretta Meagel** (1900–1999) lived to see almost the entirety of the 20th century by the time she died in 1999. Meagel graduated from Wheeling High School in 1917. Her father, a potter for North Wheeling Pottery, died just three years later. Meagel, her mother, and her elder brother, Lawrence, moved to the Oakmont area of Wheeling after the flood of 1936. Meagel worked at Conservative Life

Insurance Company until she retired in 1945. She was an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church throughout her life and a charter member of the Beta Sigma Phi Circle of Friendship, which was founded during the Depression to provide support for women. When she died just a few months before her 99th birthday, she surprised even her closest friends by leaving an estate valued at more than \$22 million almost entirely to mostly local nonprofits. Her beloved church, Trinity Lutheran, and 15 other charitable organizations continue to benefit from her generosity.
~Christina Fisanick



Donald W. Mercer (b. 1938) grew up in Warwood and graduated from Warwood High School. He received a BS in chemistry from Wheeling College and completed an MS and Ph.D. in biochemistry at the University of Pittsburgh. After serving as associate clinical professor at University of Pittsburgh's Medical School Pathology Department, he spent five years as the chief biochemist in the Pathology Department of Allegheny General Hospital. In 1975, Mercer introduced a rapid blood enzyme test for the early and precise identification of myocardial infarctions. The “CK-MB test” resulted in nearly 100% accuracy and has become the global standard as a fast, accurate, and simple way to detect heart attacks. Mercer's test has been cited as one of the top 40 developments of the 20th Century and is still considered the benchmark for detecting heart attacks worldwide. (WHOF bio).

William C. Mercer, M.D. (b, 1953) graduated Warwood High School and West Liberty State College, earning his medical degree from West Virginia University. Retiring from private practice in 2021, Dr. Mercer sees patients through the renowned Project HOPE, a street medicine program of the Wheeling-Ohio



County Health Department that he brought to Wheeling for the homeless. As the 25th health officer of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, Dr. Mercer was instrumental in getting smoking prohibited in local bars and restaurants. He also developed a program using a 500-pound statue of Snoopy (with the blessing of the Charles Schulz family) to teach students the hazards of tobacco and vaping. In 1996, *Pittsburgh Magazine* named Dr. Mercer one of the best physicians in the northeastern United States, and in 2008, he was honored as the state of West Virginia's Family Physician of the Year. (Wheeling Hof bio).

J. J. Loran Mercer (1913–1983) moved to Wheeling when his father purchased the Lincoln Theater in Warwood. Mercer ran turntables in the theater dubbing music to go with the silent films. While attending Wheeling Central, he took piano lessons from a nun who encouraged him to go to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh to become a concert pianist. He worked his way through music school as a janitor, hitchhiking to Wheeling each weekend to operate the projectors and sell popcorn at the Lincoln. He earned his MA in 1954 from Marshall University. Mercer excelled as the longtime music educator and band director at Warwood High School, where he led musicians to national recognition and was affectionately nicknamed “The Chief.” His Warwood band would become one of only five high school bands chosen to travel to Philadelphia to perform on the nationwide Paul Whiteman television program in 1951. J. Loran Mercer passed in 1983. (WHOF bio).





Eileen Nellie Miller (1921–2010) was born in Wheeling and attended the segregated Lincoln School. Raised by a single mother, she worked hard to gain enough money to attend West Virginia State College (Institute) where in 1942 she received her degree and teaching certification. Miss Miller commenced a successful teaching career at her alma mater (Lincoln High) where she taught language arts, mathematics, music,

writing, and penmanship. The 1954 federal *Brown vs. Board of Education* judicial decision ended segregation for Lincoln students and Miss Miller was transferred to Warwood High School where she remained until her retirement (from Warwood Junior High School) in 1983. In 1973-74, Miller was named Ohio County Teacher of the Year. She was the first Black educator at Warwood High School, and throughout her entire professional career was respected for her stern discipline, high standards, warm personality, and educational excellence. ~Dr. Charles Julian

Ella T. Moran (1878–1923) was born in Wheeling to a trade union family. She was a tobacco stripper and a local labor leader. Ella was elected president of the 150-member Tobacco Strippers Union, Local No. 14847 in 1918 at OVTLA Hall. She presided that year during a strike at the Marsh and Pollack plants. Also in 1918, she served as secretary of the “Kill the



Kaiser Society,” a First World War fundraising group. Moran was elected second vice president of the West Virginia Federation of Labor in 1921. She died in 1923 after a long illness at age 45. A large number of union representatives attended her funeral. According to a relative, she was known as “Wheeling’s Mother Jones.” The words “Tribute of Labor” are engraved on her tombstone. ~Seán Duffy



Agnes Jane Westbrook Morrison (1854–1939) was the first woman graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law, matriculating in 1895 at age 41. She was born in Wheeling in 1854, the eldest of five children, to Henry, a tailor, and Martha Westbrook. Moving to Pennsylvania, Agnes attended West Alexander Academy and the Cottage Hill Seminary at Poughkeepsie, New York. In 1881, at 27, she married Charles Sumner Morrison, and they had one son, Paul, who died in 1883 at two months. Charles graduated law school with her and they set up a practice in Wheeling. Agnes became known as the “Mother of clubs” in the city, as she first founded the Woman’s Literary Club, which then became a founding group for the West Virginia Federation of Women’s Clubs, and Agnes served as its fourth president. She also founded the Collegiate Alumni of Wheeling and was involved with the local woman’s club and the King’s Daughters. In their 80s, Charles and Agnes moved to Taylorstown Pennsylvania and she died there in 1939. Agnes is buried in the Washington Cemetery, where Wheeling women have erected a gravestone to honor this pioneering female attorney. ~Margaret Brennan

Wheeling native **Dr. Marion Theresa Moses**

(1936–2020) was a national authority on pesticides; trusted colleague and physician to labor leader Cesar Chavez; and beloved friend and personal physician to social activist Dorothy Day. Moses earned a nursing degree from Georgetown University and a master’s degree in nursing education from Columbia University Teachers College. While working as a nurse in California and studying English literature,



Moses met Chavez and became involved in the United Farm Workers union. She served as an organizer, volunteer nurse and

health care administrator for the union. Moses completed pre-med studies at the University of California at Berkeley and earned a medical degree from Temple University in Philadelphia in 1976. She served an internship at the University of Colorado Medical Center and a residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. She became Day's personal physician. Moses studied for a doctorate in epidemiology at Johns Hopkins University. She worked as medical director for the United Farm Workers from 1983-1986 and founded the Pesticide Education Center in San Francisco. ~Linda Comins



Steve Novotney (b. 1966) has become perhaps Wheeling's most recognizable voice. A Linsly grad who earned a journalism degree from West Liberty University, Steve accepted, in 1997, the position of Editor & GM of the "Pirate Report," a newspaper about the Pittsburgh Pirates. A few years later, he added radio to his resume, hosting "Talkin' Bucco Baseball with Steve Novotney" on Pittsburgh's ESPN radio station. Steve moved

back to Wheeling in 2004, commenting, "But upon my return I was characterized as a failure for one reason only – I moved home to Wheeling." Steve has battled that mistaken impression ever since, bringing his distinctive, baritone voice to the Valley air waves on shows like "Steve Novotney Live" and his podcast, "Steve Novotney Lives!" Never shy about sharing his opinions, Steve has earned his status as one of the Valley's most recognizable and listened-to voices, a voice now as unmistakably Wheeling as a Coleman's fish sandwich. A staunch advocate of local perspectives, Novotney always has the Valley's back, defending its people and their sometimes quirky ways. As a writer, in 2014 Steve became the Editor in Chief and primary author for Weelunk.com, an innovative, online information source. In 2019,

he helped launch LEDE News, a tristate complement to local news. Steve has also written in-depth stories about organized crime and the Elby's empire. But he is far from finished. "I realize," he explained, "I won't write the best thing I've ever written until the day I die because writers improve with age." ~Seán Duffy



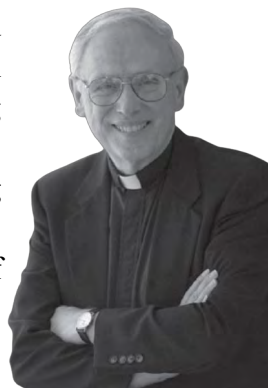
G. Ogden and Betty Woods Nutting.

G. Ogden Nutting (1935–2023) was born in 1935. His grandfather, H.C. Ogden, started the *Wheeling Daily News* in 1890. G. Ogden was named president and publisher in 1970. The Ogden Newspapers is currently West Virginia's largest newspaper company and one of the ten largest in the country. G. Ogden

and his family have demonstrated a commitment to education in West Virginia through scholarships, endowments, and other support to Bethany College and WVU. Nutting has received an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Bethany College, an Honorary Doctorate from West Virginia University, WVU Foundation's Outstanding Philanthropy Award; and the University's Distinguished Service Award for exceptional leadership. In 1960, G. Ogden married Betty Woods "Snookie" Nutting (b. 1936), who demonstrated groundbreaking leadership in the preservation of Wheeling's architectural heritage. A founding member of the Friends of Wheeling, she has been involved in saving 22 Wheeling buildings, many of them important architectural gems. She also worked with the late Beverly Fluty and others to restore the Wheeling Suspension Bridge. Snookie has received numerous awards for her work. (WHOF bios).

Rev. James A. O'Brien, S.J. (1927–2023) Teacher, priest, social justice advocate, mentor, friend are just some of the words that people use to describe Fr. O'Brien. Born in Philadelphia and or-

dained a priest in 1960, he received a BA and MA from Loyola University, Chicago. When he passed in 2023, he was the longest serving Jesuit priest at Wheeling University. In 1962, the young Jesuit priest arrived at Wheeling College to teach philosophy. He taught ethics and was long concerned with questions of justice and peace as well as hands-on involvement with students in Appalachian settings. Fr. O'Brien organized the first Appalachian Experience Club in 1978 to help those in need in southern West Virginia. While the club no longer exists, its mission, to serve others, has blossomed into the university's Appalachian Institute. Fr. O'Brien served at Wheeling Jesuit University for more than 50 years. Each year, the Alumni Council presents the James O'Brien, S.J. Award, to recent graduates who manifest a growing competence in their chosen field, and whose personal life reflects the university's mission of educating "men and women for life, leadership and service to others." (WHOF bio).



The **Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly** (1885), the nation's first central labor body was progressive in its platform regarding equal pay for men and women and woman suffrage, while condemning antisemitism in Russia. Additionally, OVTLA featured two African American delegates and one female officer prior to 1900. In 1889, **Agnes Leatonburg** of the Nail City Lantern Company Union was elected vice president. This occurred many years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment (1920), which recognized a woman's right to vote. **Osborn Gray** (1856–1903) and **Gabriel Jackson** (1847–1912), African American men, were accepted early on as delegates to represent Hodcarriers Local 5026. A hod carrier assists bricklayers and masons by carrying bricks on a three-sided box called a "hod." Gray was elected vice president in 1889 and Jackson in 1893. This occurred at a time in Wheeling when Blacks were not welcome in white owned businesses due to

Jim Crow segregation. According to one report, Jackson was a charter member of the OVTLA and an outspoken debater, beloved by his union brothers, White and Black, for his sense of humor and candor. During discussion of the Street Car Strike of 1899, Jackson advocated encouraging women (worker's wives) to join the strike, saying with the women on the side of the men, the strike would be speedily won. In 1899, when the Black hod carriers organized a picnic and invited their white brothers, none of whom attended, Jackson called them out publicly. And in 1901 while the Assembly debated whether to admit the primarily African American bootblack (shoe-shiners) union and some white members balked, Jackson accused them of "turning down honest labor because it was black." The bootblack union was later admitted. Both Gray and Jackson were also active in local Republican politics and helped organize and participated in Wheeling's Emancipation Day and Labor Day celebrations. Gray later served as a Wheeling Constable for the Clay District and Jackson as a cook at the city jail. ~ Seán Duffy



Sister Anne Regina O'Leary, S.S.J., (1912–2009). Born in Warwood, Margaret Ward O'Leary graduated from Corpus Christi Grade School and Saint Joseph Academy. She earned both her BA and MA in English from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.. In 1964, she became the first principal of a co-educational Central Catholic High School, overseeing the successful merger of all-girls St. Joseph Academy, with the boys-only CCHS. Sister served as general superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wheeling and was elected president of the United States Federation of Sisters of St. Joseph. She also served West Virginia's Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston as the first female Associate Vicar for Religious, as Director of the Office of Women, and as Coordinator of Health Affairs. She was

appointed by Gov. Jay Rockefeller to the first West Virginia Women's Commission. Sister was a member of the Wheeling Area League of Women Voters and had had articles and poems published in national magazines. She passed in 2009. (WHOF bio).

Robert J. Otten (1920–2005) was born in NJ and graduated the Parsons School of Design in New York City. He moved to Wheeling in 1946, becoming Oglebay Park's first drama director of theatrical productions. In 1950, Bob joined Stone & Thomas Department Stores in Charleston, WV. In 1962, he returned to Wheeling assuming the duties of director of interior design for Stone & Thomas. In retirement, his design talents



shifted to Oglebay Park, influencing the design of many of the facilities within the park, including the Glass Museum. In 1985, he created the first of five displays in the park's Festival of Lights and went on to create 50 festival displays including the official festival ornaments. The Festival of Lights has attracted millions of visitors to Wheeling and Oglebay Park during the holiday season. Otten was founder of the Wheeling Amateur Hockey Association, established in 1964, which helped Wheeling become an ECHL minor league hockey venue. (WHOF bio).



John Joseph Owens (1887–1931) was born in Wheeling. He studied at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. While working as staff artist for the *Wheeling Register* newspaper, he opened his artist's studio and grew his reputation for portrait painting. At the outbreak of World War I, he joined the U.S. Army and served as a surgical illustrator, medical service corps, at the base hospital in Paris,

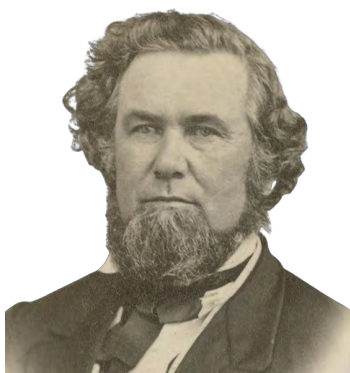
specializing in anatomical drawings. Upon returning, he opened a studio in the Hawley Building. In 1926, he returned to Europe for more study. During this time, he accepted many art commissions, earning an international reputation. Owens held art exhibitions at his studio and taught art to the public. He was founder of the Art Club of Wheeling in 1928. Owens brought fame to Wheeling by painting portraits of many influential leaders, both nationally and abroad. A collection of his paintings is housed at the Ohio County Public Library. (WHOF bio).



Alfred Paull (1854–1923) was born in Wheeling and attended Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, PA. He started his career as secretary of the Nail City Glass company, and served as secretary of the Manufacturers Insurance Company (1881), then the Underwriters Insurance Company (1885). His Alfred Paull & Son general insurance agency eventually included some 135 sub-agencies throughout the state. He also served as vice president of the Bank of the Ohio Valley and was director in the Nail City Lantern company, the American Insurance company, and the Dollar Savings bank. Paull served as secretary of the Ohio Valley General Hospital, four years as a member of Wheeling City Council, eight years as a member of the Board of Education, and was a director of the YMCA. He also was a ruling elder of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church, where he organized the famous Men's Bible Class. Paull died in 1923. (WHOF bio).

Ronald G. Peyton (b. 1942) graduated from Triadelphia High School and later earned master's and doctor's degrees in physical therapy from Duke University. He founded the Dogwood Institute in Georgia, in 1970, was chief executive officer of the Rehabilitation Service of Atlanta (1976-1990) and was a director of

The Sports Medicine Institute from 1970-1993. He was a professor in physical therapy at Duke and Georgia State Universities. Peyton has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Catherine Worthington Fellowship Award, the most prestigious award a physical therapist can receive. He served as director of sports medicine services for the Olympic Village in Atlanta, Georgia. He served on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and as physical therapist to President Jimmy Carter in 1976. He is a frequent speaker, consultant, educator, and patented inventor, and has authored stories in more than 35 professional journals, magazines, and newspapers describing physical therapy. He now resides in Texas. (Wheeling HOF bio).



Francis Harrison Pierpont (1814–1899), the “Father of West Virginia,” was not actually from Wheeling. But, while he served as the Governor of the Restored State of Virginia, a position key to the plan for West Virginia’s statehood during the American Civil War, he occupied an office at the historic custom house on Sixteenth Street, now known as West Virginia

Independence Hall. Born in Monongalia County in 1814, Pierpont grew up in Marion County. A vocal opponent of secession, when Virginia seceded from the Union, he was a delegate to the Wheeling Conventions, which drafted a constitution and elected Pierpont as the “legitimate governor” of Virginia (the Restored or Reorganized state), who then approved creation of a new state of West Virginia, which was officially admitted to the Union with President Lincoln’s signature on June 20, 1863. The state, in 1910, donated a marble statue of Pierpont which stands in the

U.S. Capitol's National Statuary Hall. A large bronze monument was dedicated outside West Virginia Independence Hall on West Virginia Day 2015. ~Seán Duffy



William Henry Powell (1825–1904)

was a Welsh immigrant who became a puddler in a Wheeling iron factory. A puddler stirs molten iron with rods that are consumed into the iron to make wrought iron. A highly skilled and dangerous occupation, being a puddler required strength, stamina, and sustained concentration, skills that would serve Powell well in his future. In 1846, while working in the mill, molten iron

struck him and left him permanently blind in his right eye. He then built a nail factory in Benwood, later moving to Ironton, Ohio. When the Civil War started, Powell recruited a company, mustering in as the Captain of Company B 2nd West Virginia Cavalry on September 1, 1861 and served until January 14, 1865, achieving the rank of Brevet Major General. During the war, he commanded a division of cavalry, was seriously wounded and held prisoner in Libby Prison, and received the Medal of Honor for the Sinking Creek Raid. General Powell died in Illinois in 1904. ~Richard A. Wolfe



Julia Katherine Pronty-Davis (1889–1949)

born in Roanoke, Va., graduated from

Meharry Medical College, one of the nation's oldest and largest historically black academic health science centers, in 1910. She passed the West Virginia medical exams in early 1911 and, short-

ly thereafter, came to Wheeling, one of only four black doctors in the City and the first African-American female doctor to be welcomed in Wheeling. Dr. Pronty kept her office in her East Wheeling home at 64-11th Street and also frequently saw patients at Ohio Valley General Hospital. Fighting the inequity and racism of Jim Crow Wheeling, by 1915, Dr. Pronty was considered to be one the most “eminent physicians” in the City. In 1919 she married John H. Davis, druggist at North Side Pharmacy, who took on future Wheeling Hall of Famer, “Doc” White, as a partner in 1928. The two are buried side by side at Stone Church Cemetery.
~Erin Rothenbuehler



Warren W. Pugh (1902–1983) was one of the most respected sports officials in the Tri-State area for five decades. He was also a longtime coach, teacher and public servant. He officiated high school and college football, basketball and track. In football, he worked Ohio Valley high school games in addition to WVU, Penn State, and Pitt games. In basketball, he officiated numerous state tournaments. He was a track official for 50 years including the prestigious Bellaire Relays. Besides officiating contests, he was an active promoter of officiating and served as president of both the Ohio Valley Board of Approved Football and Basketball Officials' organizations. A teacher at the Linsly School, he coached Cadet swim teams to 26 OVAC titles before retiring in 1972. He also was twice elected Ohio County Sheriff. Pugh attended Madison School and Linsly, where he was an athletic standout. He was inducted into the W. Va. Sports Hall and the OVAC Hall of Fame. Pugh died in 1983. (WHOF bio).

Joseph Ray (1807–1855) was born on a farm near Valley Grove, just outside Wheeling. He was the eldest of nine children in a Quaker family. At 16, Ray began teaching in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He later earned a medical degree from the Medical College of Ohio but chose to focus on education. As a professor at Woodward College in Cincinnati, he developed a series of mathematics textbooks that emphasized practical problem-solving and clear explanations. His “Ray’s Arithmetic” series, which included titles ranging from primary arithmetic to higher algebra, became the most popular math texts in the United States during the 19th century. Ray’s work had a lasting impact on education, and his textbooks remained in use well into the 20th century. Today, they have experienced a resurgence in popularity among homeschooling communities. Joseph Ray passed away in 1855, but his contributions to mathematics education continue to be recognized and celebrated, particularly in his home region of Wheeling, West Virginia. ~Christina Fisanick



Val

Valentine (1881–1967), **Roy** (1909–1968), and **Victor Reuther** (1912–2004). Walter Reuther wasn’t the only Reuther of accomplishment to hail from Wheeling. His father, Valentine, was a German immigrant who drove a delivery wagon for Schmulbach Brewery. A socialist, Val taught his sons to debate controversial issues of the day at the family dinner table. Val was an avid unionist, president of the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly, and a leader – in memory of his dead union brothers at Home-

stead – in the opposition to a Carnegie Library being built in Wheeling. He took young Victor and Walter to visit his hero, socialist leader Eugene Debs at the Moundsville Penitentiary, when the latter was incarcerated under the Espionage Act for his resistance to World War I. The meeting was a memorable and influential one for Walter and for Victor, who traveled to the Soviet



Union together in 1933, where they worked in an automobile factory. They were expelled for leading a strike. Back home, Victor was an active organizer and risked himself confronting company thugs in the 1936 General Motors strike. He later became head of the education department of the United Automobile Workers union, where Walter was the president. Like Walter, he survived an assassination attempt and later became the UAW's International Director, promoting unions for the remainder of his life. He died in 2004. Roy Reuther was an accomplished organizer who helped his brothers build the UAW into a powerful union, beginning with the 1936 Flint Sit-Down Strike and the 1939 Tool and Die Strike, both involving General Motors. He eventually became the political director of the UAW. Like his brother Walter, Roy was heavily involved in the Civil Rights Movement and was a strong supporter of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers Union. He died of a heart attack at age 58. ~ Seán Duffy

Kate Rolla (Katherine Doane Wheat, 1859–1925). Eleanor Steber was not the first opera star to hail from Wheeling. Born in Wheeling in 1859, Kate Rolla (of the Wheat family) trained as a singer in Paris, performing first in Milan then several other European cities. In 1887, she



returned to perform in her hometown. She was said to possess a powerful mezzo-soprano singing voice and to have been strikingly beautiful. After performing in Broadway musicals, she retired to teach voice in NYC. ~ Seán Duffy



Stan E. Romanoski (1918–2004) attended St. Vincent's Grade School before enrolling at Triadelphia High School, where he was an accomplished track athlete. At WVU, he was a member of the 1941 mile relay team which set a school record that lasted over 30 years. After college he was a highly successful high school football, basketball, and track coach. He started the indoor track program at WVU without a facility. Romanoski's WVU track teams were 70-39-1 and his cross country teams were 128-64. From 1957-81, he piloted more All-America trackmen (7) than any other Mountaineer coach. Inducted into the West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame and the West Virginia state Sports Hall of Fame, he passed in 2004. (WHOF bio).

John Russell (b.) is a born-and-bred river rat based in Wheeling, WV. He earned a degree in Agricultural Science, farmed produce for seven years, and ran a stump grinder to pay for the farming habit. He ran intentionally for state representative, accidentally for Congress, and later advised a major presidential campaign on rural policy and engagement. After a decade of that mix, John came back to the Ohio Valley, picked up a dive bartending job for a couple years, and jumped into advocacy media. His reporting with *More Perfect Union* earned an Emmy nomination in 2023. In 2024, he spoke in primetime at the Democratic National



Convention about the need to return to labor roots and class solidarity. Today, he's a freelance reporter for *More Perfect Union*, a board member at the Wheeling Academy of Law & Science (WALS) Foundation, co-host of the Jess and John podcast, and the main author of a newsletter called "The Holler," about class politics for rednecks and hippies everywhere. (provided)



Charles P. Saad (1925–2014) was born in Centre Wheeling and attended St. Alphonsus School. After graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1943, he served a short stint with the Medical Corp in the U.S. Army during World War II, then attended West Virginia University where he became an assistant trainer for all sports through 1951. During the next 15 years, Saad worked both in minor league baseball and as an all-sports

trainer on major college campuses. During the off-season, he worked all sports at WVU and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. In 1965, he started a five-year tenure with the Los Angeles Lakers of the NBA. From 1967-78, he became Head Trainer for the Chicago White Sox of MLB. From 1979-81, Saad worked as Head Trainer of the Oakland A's as well as the California Angels during their spring training camps before retiring and returning to Wheeling. Saad is believed to be the only West Virginian to have been employed both by MLB and NBA teams. (WHOF bio).

Fairmont born **Harry S. Sands** (1867–1952) married **Helen Virginia Turner** (1865–1952) from Baltimore and in 1894 moved to Wheeling. Harry founded Sands Electric and Manufacturing Co. in 1896 and made his money electrifying coal mines and industrial plants in the Wheeling area. Beginning in 1919 Harry S. Sands acquired from Alexander McColloch, a member of the pioneer McColloch family, a farm that would grow to more than 300 acres. For the next 30 years this "model" farm, which they named

“Sandscrest,” was electrified, modernized and expanded. Harry S. and Helen Turner Sands spent the rest of their lives at Sandscrest, where they raised prized Holstein dairy cattle and conducted other notable farming endeavors. In his will, Sands required that Sandscrest be devoted to some educational, scientific, religious, charitable or other public benevolent use. Today, the Sandscrest farm is owned by the Sandscrest Foundation, Inc., which was created after their deaths by the Episcopal Diocese of the State of West Virginia. The farm is used as a retreat center. (WHOF bios).



Albert F. Schenk, III (1916–1995) and **Kathleen Hogan Schenk** (1921–2009) were both born in Wheeling. Albert continued the family tradition of giving generously to numerous Wheeling-based charitable organizations. Most were made anonymously, but he did allow his family name to be used for the construction of Schenk Lake as a memorial for his parents. Kathleen Hogan Schenk began a lifetime of volunteer work with the Red Cross during World War II. During her lifetime, she was a significant supporter of Mount de Chantel Visitation Academy, Wheeling Jesuit University, and Wheeling Hospital, again without public recognition. The Schenk Charitable Trust has more than \$8 million in assets and annually distributes hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships, capital improvements, and program assistance to agencies throughout the Wheeling area. (Wheeling HOF bios).

Margaret C. McCluskey Schiffler (1895–1976). Following the death of her father, St. Joseph's Academy graduate Margaret McCluskey went to work at the Centre Foundry to support herself and her widowed mother. From the position of office clerk, she advanced rapidly through the ranks and became secretary-treasurer of the company. Her monetary compensation kept pace with her increased responsibilities, during a time when women executives and their salaries equivalent to their male counterparts were truly a rarity. Margaret apparently had an extraordinary grasp of the intricacies of finance and was successful not only in her executive duties but also in the personal investments she made. Through her own efforts and shrewdness over time, she built a large personal fortune. In 1959, she married Andrew C. Schiffler, a practicing Wheeling attorney and former U. S. Congressman. She then resigned from Centre Foundry to spend more time with her husband. Margaret and Andrew together established a trust that benefitted Wheeling Hospital, the Roman Catholic Diocese for the education of priesthood candidates, and the Sisters of St. Joseph order. ~Jeanne Finstein



Henry Stifel Schrader (1909–1996). A graduate of West Virginia University, New York University, and Harvard Law School, Henry Stifel Schrader began his law practice in Wheeling in 1934. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and then returned to practice law as senior partner at the firm Schrader, Byrd, Companion and Gurley and as a member of the Ohio County, West Virginia, and American Bar Associations. He was also an active member of St. Matthews Episcopal Church and served on various local commissions and organi-

zations. But his lasting legacy came through his generous philanthropy. Among his bequests were some \$4.2 million to Oglebay Institute, which was used to build an environmental center that bears his name, a state-of-the-art dance and art studio, and equipment for Towngate Theatre, along with an endowment for maintenance and programming. St. Matthews Episcopal Church benefited from his philanthropy, as did Wheeling (then Jesuit) University for renovation of the Troy Theatre in Swint Hall, the WVU College of Law, and several other non-profit organizations. ~Jeanne Finstein



Ron Scott, Jr. (b. 1974) is a community leader and bridge builder. Born in Wheeling, he graduated Wheeling Park High School and West Liberty University. An addiction counselor, former president and vice president of the Upper Ohio Valley NAACP, former vice chairman of

the Wheeling Human Rights Commission, founder of the Ohio Valley African American Students Association, member of Independent Films, chairman of the Performing Arts Committee of the Wheeling Arts & Culture Commission, and board member of the Independent Theater Collective, he currently serves as program director of Cultural Diversity & Community Outreach for the YWCA Wheeling. In addition to inventing and presenting innovative educational programming, including “A History of Black Music,” Wheeling’s only annual Mini-(Comic) Con, and “Hip Hop: A Black Tie Affair,” Ron helped establish the Ohio Valley’s annual Juneteenth celebration. He frequently works

with community partners, such as the Ohio County Public Library, for whom he rewrote a 1936 speech by Black attorney Harry Jones, providing a modern perspective on African American life in Wheeling. In 2020, Ron received the MLK Award from the Upper Ohio Valley Ministerial Alliance. He was named a 2025 West Virginia History Hero. ~ Seán Duffy



Abba Hillel Silver (1893–1963) was born in the Russian Empire in what is now Lithuania and came to the United States as a child. A Zionist, he attended New York public schools then Hebrew Union College. After graduation in 1915, he served as Rabbi at Leshem Shomayim (now Temple Shalom) in Wheeling. He left in 1917 to become Rabbi of The Temple - Tifereth Israel in Cleveland, Ohio,

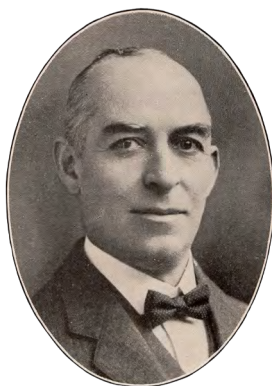
where he served for 46 years, becoming a highly regarded writer and speaker. A champion of labor rights, he pushed nationally and internationally for the establishment of a Jewish state, which resulted in the founding of the nation of Israel. ~ Seán Duffy

Clarence B. “Smitty” Smith (1911–1986) was Wheeling’s last “bootblack” or shoe shiner. Born in Buford Georgia in 1911, Smitty was part of the “Great Migration” of African Americans who headed north, settling in Wheeling when he was 13 years old and attending segregated Lincoln School. After graduation, he chose one of the few careers open to Black men during the Jim Crow era, opening his own shoeshine shop at Liberty Hat Cleaners at 2207 Market.



Later moving to the Rogers Barbershop on 14th (owned by the Comas family), Smitty also worked evenings at the state store in

Elm Grove – for a total of 99 hours per week. His personal charm and listening skills soon endeared him to businessmen all over town. A consummate showman, Smitty would sing by request while popping his polishing rag off the shoe leather and snapping it behind his back like a whip. As a young man, Smitty was a skilled pugilist. “We used to rope off the sidewalk on 22nd and Market and take on all comers,” he recalled. It must have been a thrill for him, a few years later, to shine the shoes of former heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey when the latter visited Wheeling in 1936 to promote his candy business at the Grocery Retailers’ convention. In 1940, Smitty married Evelyn Foy. The couple had four daughters. When Smitty passed in 1986, attorney Sue Seibert Farnsworth (see page 29) eloquently summed up the feelings of the people who cherished him: “He was a bright spot in the day. An institution in the community. We’re all better off for having known him.” ~ Seán Duffy



Moses Sonneborn (1855–1929) was born in Cumberland, Maryland.. Moving to Wheeling, he began his working life as a newsboy and later joined his father's store as a clerk. In 1877, he launched his own business in Bellaire, Ohio, operating it until 1889. Two years later, he established The Hub in Wheeling. Under his leadership, The Hub grew from a modest shop into a major department store and one of the largest retail establishments in the state. According to his

profile in 1923's *Progressive West Virginians*: “There is no more prominent merchant or better esteemed man, with all classes, in the City of Wheeling than Moses Sonneborn.” Beyond his business achievements, Sonneborn was active in civic and fraternal organizations. When the city acquired Wheeling Park in 1924, he contributed to the construction of the park's entrance gates, now known as the Sonneborn Gates. ~Christina Fisanick



Life-long Wheeling resident, **Frederick P. Stamp, Jr.** (b. 1934), began his legal profession in his hometown in 1960. After 30 years of private practice, he was appointed to the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia by President George H. W. Bush in 1990 and served as Chief Judge from 1994-2001, assuming senior status in 2006. Elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates (1966-1970), appointed to the West Virginia Board of Regents (1970-1977) and the West Virginia Commission on Higher Education, sitting as President of the West Virginia Bar Association, and having helped established the Judicial Scholars Program, among other distinctions, in 2017, Judge Stamp was inducted in the Wheeling Hall of Fame for public service. The federal courthouse in Wheeling was renamed the Frederick P. Stamp Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse in 2022 to honor the judge for his years of exemplary service. ~Erin Rothenbuehler

A philanthropic spirit modeled upon family legacy, 2023 Wheeling Hall of Fame inductee **Joan Corson Stamp** (b. 1951) has continued a tradition of supporting education, culture, and the arts in Wheeling. As board member of Oglebay Institute, she played an important role in turning a Stifel family home into a fine arts center. Though her philanthropic work includes representation on national and statewide boards, she has continued to serve locally, acting as a past



chair of the Oglebay Foundation, a life member of the Wheeling Symphony Society, a member of the board of directors of the Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, a founder the Women's Giving Circle, and as a trustee for the Stifel College Schol-

arship Fund. The granddaughter of Arthur Stifel, a founding member of the Wheeling Park Commission, Stamp was herself appointed to the commission in 2013 and continues to serve today. She is married to fellow Wheeling Hall of Famer, Judge Frederick P. Stamp, Jr. (see above). ~Erin Rothenbuehler



Edwin M. “Ned” Steckel, Jr. (1930–2018)

was a national Emmy-Award winning network television producer. Ned attended Linsly Military Institute where he set free-style swim records. He earned the BA in journalism and the MS in communications from Syracuse University, where he was a varsity letterman on the undefeated 1952 swimming team. He served as a journalist in the U.S. Naval Reserve assigned to the headquarters of the Supreme Allied Command Atlantic (NATO). Steckel’s broadcasting career included employment with ABC Sports, where he served as producer/director. Assigned principally to ABC’s Wide World of Sports, he also produced television coverage of the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. He served there 19 years, winning eight national Emmy Awards for his production of Wide World of Sports, NCAA Football, and various Olympic Games coverage. After his broadcasting career, Ned joined the faculty of Bethany College as an associate professor of communications. (Wheeling HOF bio).

Jake Stenzel (1867–1919) was a professional baseball player who got his start in Wheeling. He played during an age of such skilled hitting that his amazing batting stats failed to stand out. He left his Cincinnati home in 1887 to play ball for the Wheeling Nailers as a catcher in the Tri-State



League, batting .390 in 1887, just ahead of Sol White (see page 10) who batted .381. Stenzel joined the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1892 and batted .409 a year later. As a centerfielder, he led the pirates in average, hits, home runs, runs, stolen bases, and walks in 1894. He batted .374 in 1895. As the first Pirate to post six hits in one game in 1896, his reward was being traded to Baltimore where he hit .353 with 43 doubles. Released in 1899, his career quickly ended. Stenzel finished with a .339 batting average in nine major league seasons. He returned to Cincinnati to open a bar restaurant and died of influenza in 1919. ~Seán Duffy



Born in Wheeling, Virginia, **George Elias Stifel** (1849–1931) was the son of Johann Ludwig Stifel, founder of the world renowned J.L. Stifel & Sons calico printing company. While his family was known for textile manufacturing, George charted his own path in retail. At just 14, he began working at Stone & Thomas. In 1878, he partnered with Fred C.H. Schwertfeger to establish Geo. E. Stifel & Co., a dry goods

store that would grow into one of Wheeling's premier department stores. By the early 20th century, it employed over 100 people. In 1926, he established a \$100,000 endowment to fund the Stifel Awards, which recognize academic excellence among Ohio County students in grades five through twelve. His daughter Nellie went on to further honor her father's wishes by establishing the George E. Stifel Scholarship Fund in 1951, which continues to support Ohio County students to this day. ~Christina Fisanick

Boswell Henson Stillyard, M.D. (1847–1916). Born to slave parents outside of Washington, D.C., Boswell Henson Stillyard (1847-1916) was an ambitious, self-taught man who “would sit up at night in a fireless room wrapped in a quilt that he might



learn how to read and write.” Admitted to Howard University in 1876, he graduated from medical college in 1882. Shortly thereafter, he arrived in Wheeling where the West Virginia Board of Health had just been established by legislation pushed by Wheelingite Dr. James Edmund Reeves. Passing the exams, a feat many practicing white physicians did not, Stillyard established his practice in East Wheeling where he quickly gained respect in the community and became one of the local civil rights leaders. After an unsuccessful run for City Council in 1885, Stillyard ran again successfully in 1913, becoming the first African-American to serve on Wheeling’s City Council and one of only seven black men elected to municipal councils nationally. A scandalous smear campaign and arrest led to his deteriorating health following the end of his term on Council. Upon his death, the *Intelligencer*, while in the same article reporting on the case that brought down his reputation, praised his civic contributions calling him, “a man of more than usual brilliancy.” ~Erin Rothenbuehler

Rev. Willie F. Stinson (1936–2018) grew up in Steubenville and played football for the Wheeling Ironmen. He graduated from the Oregon Institute of Technology and the Culinary Institute of America. In the U.S. Army, he served as an executive chef. After discharge, he worked as an executive chef for Waldorf Astoria Hotels and Resorts and as an instructor and regional director for the



Culinary Institute of America. Ordained as a minister in 1987, he earned a bachelor’s degree in theology at Trinity College of the Bible. Moving to Wheeling in 1992, he and his wife, Evangelist Ruth Stinson, founded Agape Baptist Church, located at the corner of 14th and Jacob streets in East Wheeling. Stinson served as pas-

tor there from 1992 until his death in 2018. Rev. Stinson worked with young people, counseled criminally challenged youth, and served as a mentor to many, including other pastors. He played a key role in the process of designating Stone Boulevard in Wheeling as Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. (WHOF bio).



Hugh Nevin Stobbs (1935–2020) was a champion of the people of the Upper Ohio Valley, and his dedication to both physical fitness and to American veterans will forever stand as proof. Stobbs was an outstanding athlete during his high school days at Linsly Military Institute, and following his 1952 graduation, he continued his education at West Virginia University and served in the American military for six years before he began managing his family's real estate holdings. Stobbs kicked his smoking habit and started jogging at the same time. Soon after making those lifestyle changes, he approached Ellis, George, and Mike Boury – the founders of Elby's Family Restaurants – to pitch his idea for a road race in the city of Wheeling. The inaugural Elby's Distance Race was held the following year on May 28, and within a few years, the top road racers in the world descended on the Friendly City to compete in the prestigious event. Stobbs served his community in many different roles, including the Ohio County Board of Education for 22 years and the board of directors of the Wheeling YWCA. In 2009 Stobbs founded an annual running and walking event called the Lois Stobbs Memorial Veterans 10K to honor his beloved wife as well as local veterans. ~Steve Novotney

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Bishop John J. Swint (1879–1962) was born at Pickens, West Virginia on December 15, 1879. After completing theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary, he was ordained for the priesthood in the Diocese of Wheeling on June 23, 1904. Following

several pastorates, Swint was named auxiliary bishop of the diocese in February 1922 and was elevated to ordinary only ten months later. Swint served nearly forty years as bishop of the Wheeling diocese, a period marked by tremendous growth of the Catholic faith in West Virginia. During this time, the Catholic population nearly doubled while Swint built close to one hundred churches, a new Cathedral, one college, fifty-two schools, and five hospitals, earning him the nickname “God’s bricklayer.” In recognition of his service, Swint was conferred the title of archbishop “ad personam,” an honor typically bestowed only to those bishops of an archdiocese. Bishop Swint died on November 23, 1962, and is buried in the bishop’s chapel at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Wheeling. ~Jon-Erik Gilot



William Edward “B.E.” Taylor (1951–2016) was born in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Diagnosed with a serious kidney disease at age 11, he was housebound for a year and learned to play guitar. His “The B.E. Taylor Group,” scored a Billboard hit with “Vitamin L,” in 1981, accompanied by a music video that aired nationally on MTV. During his career, Taylor shared a stage with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Chicago, Hall and Oates, and The Beach Boys. A December 1996 performance of a Christmas show at Oglebay Park set in motion the B.E. Taylor Christmas Tour that would play annually to audiences across the Midwest. Taylor would headline the Capitol more than 40 times and would appear as guest soloist with the Wheeling and Pittsburgh symphonies. He was awarded the Duquesne University Lifetime Achievement Award and the Distinguished West Virginian Award. (WHOF bio).



Colonel Joseph Thoburn (1825–1864), while a native of County Antrim, Ireland, relocated to the Ohio Valley as an infant, where he later studied medicine and founded a private medical practice. In 1861 he served a surgeon of the 1st Virginia Infantry (90-days), and was later commissioned as colonel of the reorganized regiment. Thoburn led the regiment through 1862 and 1863, distinguishing himself for his soldierly conduct and bravery. In 1864 Thoburn assumed command of a division of troops in the Eighth Corps of the Union Army, ably commanding his troops at the battles of Cool Spring, Second Kernstown, and Third Winchester. On October 19, 1864, Thoburn was killed during the Battle of Cedar Creek while still in command of the division. His body was returned to Wheeling, where he laid in state at the capitol building before a public funeral, thought to be the largest up to that point in the city’s history, conducted his remains to Mt. Wood Cemetery. A modern biographer notes that Thoburn was “worthy of a higher rank.” ~Jon-Erik Gilot

The Rev. **Dr. Bonnie B. Thurston** (b. 1952) is an internationally recognized New Testament scholar, author, poet, teacher, and retreat leader. A native of West Virginia, she earned a bachelor’s degree from Bethany College and a master’s degree and doctorate at the University of Virginia. She completed post-doctoral studies in New Testament at Harvard Divinity School; Eberhard Karls University in Tuebingen, Germany; and the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem. In 30 years of teaching, she held positions at Bethany College and Wheeling Jesuit University and served as the William F. Orr Professor in New Testament at Pitts-



burgh Theological Seminary until 2002. A frequent contributor to publications, Thurston is the author or editor of 24 theological books and eight collections of her poetry. She is a founding member and past president of the International Thomas Merton Society. Thurston has served as co-pastor, pastor, or interim of five churches and twice in overseas ministries. She is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and is affiliated with The Episcopal Church. She resides near Wheeling. ~Linda Comins



Michael F. Tighe (1858–1940) started working for the Wheeling Iron and Nail Company at age 10, becoming a skilled pud-dler by age 20. Joining the Crescent Lodge of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, he was soon an officer and was elected president of the Ohio Valley Trades and Labor Assembly in 1896 and again in 1899. He introduced Eugene V. Debs when the socialist leader spoke at 17th and Chapline Streets in Wheeling in 1897.

Tighe spoke before Debs in 1900 when Debs returned to deliver his “Labor and Liberty” address at the Upper Market. When elected international secretary of the Amalgamated in 1899, Tighe toured the country recruiting members during the 1901 steel strike. In 1918 he was elected international president of the Amalgamated. He returned to attend labor events in Wheeling throughout his life, serving, for example, as the keynote speaker at the dedication of the Pollack Monument. He died in Pittsburgh in 1940. ~Seán Duffy

Susan D. Vail (b. 1941) excelled in golf at a young age, playing competitively during her years at Triadelphia High School and West Virginia University. She competed nationally in United States Golf Association Women’s amateur and senior play,

winning the West Virginia Women's Amateur Championship eight times and the West Virginia Senior Amateur seven times. Sue was selected 18 times to represent the Women's West Virginia Golf Association in the prestigious Virginias-Carolinas Team Matches. She was inducted into the Ohio Valley Legends of Golf and named to the West Virginia Golf Hall of Fame. Upon retiring from 37 years as a classroom teacher, she became an adjunct professor at Wheeling Jesuit University where she started the first women's golf team at the school and continues to serve as the team's head coach. (WHOF bio).



James Nelson Vance (1829–1913) was born on a farm near the intersection of National Road and Bethany Pike. In 1860, he co-founded Dewey, Vance & Co., which manufactured railroad spikes and iron during the Civil War. The firm expanded to become the Wheeling Iron and Spike Works, at the time the largest factory of its kind in the world. After the war, Vance led the construction of the Riverside Mill (later Riverside Iron Works Co.). Under his leadership, the facility

grew rapidly, eventually producing 10,000 kegs of nails per week. In 1884, the plant introduced West Virginia's first Bessemer converter, cementing Wheeling's future as a leader in the steel industry. By the late 1880s, the company employed approximately 6,000 workers and operated plants in Wheeling, Benwood, and Steubenville. Beyond his industrial ventures, Vance was active in banking and other business interests, including shoes, glass, and insurance. He was also a generous philanthropist, funding the construction of Wheeling's YMCA building and supporting the YWCA and Ohio Valley General Hospital. In 1896, he commis-

sioned the building of Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church in memory of his parents. ~Christina Fisanick

Robert Villamagna

(b. 1948) has been referred to as “The Tin Man” with a heart, because his primary choice of art media is repurposed tin, cut and hammered onto wood and then assembled to create his iconic art. His work also



includes paintings, cartoons, and other mixed media. Gracing museums and private galleries throughout Wheeling and the region, Villamagna’s work has also been featured in multiple print media throughout the nation. He came to academics along a circular path after having been an illustrator for the U.S. Army and a steelworker at Weirton Steel, where old timers called him a “Mill Rat,” meaning he’d be stuck there forever, like them. This inspired Bob to become an artist, an inspirational story illustrated in his piece, “Mill Rat,” which can be seen on display at the Ohio County Public Library. Bob graduated from Franciscan University and took a Master’s degree in Art Therapy from Wright State University. In 2016 the West Virginia Division of Culture and History chose him as West Virginia Artist of the Year. He has won multiple awards at Tamarack’s David L. Dickirson Fine Arts Gallery. (WHOF bio)

Harold E. Vitalie (1937–2023) was a cherished, long-time patron of the Ohio County Public Library and particularly of its Lunch With Books program. He consistently arrived early so that he could reserve his preferred seat at the first middle table, typically

donning a fedora and raincoat. A long-time history teacher at John Marshall High School, he introduced his students to ear-muff inventor Chester Greenwood and the soft drink, Moxie. A devoted lifelong Freemason, he was a master of trivia, and loved to show that off, pontificating in his booming voice and asking presenters challenging questions or simply commenting on factoids they might have omitted. He took meticulous notes (still sought by the archives) and routinely gifted the library's programming director with various shark-themed items he picked up at his beloved flea markets and yard sales. When he passed, he left the library a generous gift. The auditorium he spent so much time in will has been dubbed, "The Harold E. Vitale Auditorium at the Ohio County Public Library." As Harold would say, "Illegitimi Non Carborundum." ~Seán Duffy



Louis Volpe (b.) grew up in Weirton and graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University in 1970 with a BA in English and from John Carroll University in 1978 with an MA in English Literature. Besides teaching for four years at St. John Central High School in Bellaire, Ohio, Lou spent thirty-

four years teaching Senior English to his beloved students at Wheeling Central Catholic High School, where he led community volunteer efforts like Guys and Girls United to Serve (GGUTS) and the annual CCHS Canned Food Drive. Mr. Volpe taught with passion, humility, and empathy, always setting a good example for students as a Christian role model. Many Wheeling Central graduates still remember him as their most influential teacher.



Wesley J. Wagner (1917–2006) was a painter, artist and educator. His paintings grace many homes and businesses locally, nationally and internationally. In his more than 50-year career, he documented on canvas local rural life, historic structures, and industrial sites. Wagner was art instructor at Wheeling Country Day School and art specialist with Oglebay Institute, teaching and conducting workshops at various

places. Best known as a watercolorist, he was one of the 35 founding artist members of Artworks Around Town and was also an accomplished musician. He attended The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia and studied at the Barnes Foundation, a prestigious Philadelphia center for the arts. He returned to Wheeling and began his painting career in a studio above a garage on National Rd. (WHOF bio).

Charles “Moondog”

Waldrum (b.). Most know him for riding his bike, the one loaded with flags on the back, throughout the city of Wheeling and sometimes beyond. Charles Waldrum, known to most as “Moondog,” is the most misunderstood icon in Wheeling history. One of 11 children



raised by Charles and Mamie Waldrum of East Wheeling, he is now 66 years old and a resident of the Peterson Rehabilitation

Center in Woodsdale. His battle with diabetes caused him to lose his left leg, and he's resided in the facility for the past six years. While his brothers and sisters raised families and had professional careers, Charles became known as "Moondog" for his late-night bicycle cruises through downtown Wheeling and the surrounding neighborhoods. He had a unique relationship with several of Wheeling's firefighters most of his life, but only after he was punished as a child for his role in an arson on Wheeling Island. Many Wheeling residents have praised Charles for his kind nature and persistent smile while others have been critical because of his appearance and his social deficiencies. For decades, "Moondog" unofficially participated in Wheeling's Christmas parade when he would pedal along as the last feature of the procession, and since he's been hospitalized, he has been driven in, of course, a vehicle operated by one of the city's first responders. ~Steve Novotney

Gary E. West (b. 1937) graduated from Triadelphia High School and received a BS in Business from West Liberty State College, working part-time jobs at Twelfth St. Garage and Goodyear Tire & Rubber helped to pay the college expenses. After graduation, he worked for 13 years for Goodyear Tire. In 1970, he purchased Valley Welding Supply Co., which grew rapidly under his leadership and in 1997 went



public with capital value of \$56 million. In February of 2007, Valley was sold to a private equity firm for \$316 million. Many local stock holders and employees were justly rewarded by the sale and more importantly, all employees retained their local positions and additional personnel have been added to the local corporate office staff. West was inducted into the West Liberty State College Hall of Fame in 1993 and the WV Business Hall of Fame in 2006. (WHOF bio).



Edith Lake Wilkinson (1868–1957) was born in Wheeling and attended the Art Students League in NYC. She became an active member of the Provincetown Art Colony in Massachusetts, contributing to the development of the White-Line woodcut technique. Her works were exhibited in venues including the Philadelphia Water Color Club and the Arts Club of Chicago. In 1922, Edith's

elderly parents died after being overcome by gas fumes in their Wheeling Island home. Two years later, Wilkinson was committed to the Sheppard Pratt Hospital in Baltimore, possibly due to her long-term relationship with a woman named Fannie Wilkinson. She was signed in by the Wheeling attorney who was managing her inheritance. Later, he would be charged with embezzling his clients' money. During her decade-long institutionalization, her artworks and personal belongings were packed into trunks and sent to her nephew, Edward Vossler, in Wheeling, where they remained untouched for decades. Wilkinson spent the remainder of her life in institutions, passing away in 1957 at Huntington State Hospital in West Virginia. Her art might have been lost to history if not for the efforts of her great-niece, Jane Anderson, who uncovered the stored trunks and brought Wilkinson's story to light through the documentary *Packed in a Trunk: The Lost Art of Edith Lake Wilkinson*. Today her work can be found in the collections of The Huntington Museum of Art and The Provincetown Art Association and Museum. ~Christina Fisanick

Cy Williams (1918–2006). Milo Smik was born in 1918 to Slovak immigrant parents. Young Milo learned to play the fiddle from his coal miner father, who also played the Mandolin back in Prague. As a “hillbilly music” performer, Milo adopted the stage name “Cy Williams.” Cy was short for “Cyclone,” a nickname earned for his powerful fiddle playing, though his brother Andrew (stage name “Doc Williams”) insisted Cy was “The boy

with the silver-voiced fiddle.” Cy learned to play fiddle at brother Doc’s urging as Doc learned guitar. The two brothers started performing together at square dances. Known as the “Bobby-Sox Crooner” in his early years, Cy sang harmony with Doc and also did solo work. Cy would then play fiddle for “Doc Williams and the Border Riders” from 1935 to 1953. “The Doc Williams Sound” consisted of Doc on guitar, Marion Martin on accordion, and Cy on fiddle. Other members of the Border Riders included



“Sunflower” (Mary Calvas), comedian “Rawhide” Fincher, “Big Slim the Lonesome Cowboy,” and Curly Sims. Doc’s wife Chickie (Jesse Wanda Crupe) joined in 1946. Cy also frequently participated in the comedy skits, which were part of the act. Doc Williams and the Border Riders traveled the eastern United States and most of Canada to perform. They first performed on “The World’s Original WWVA Jamboree,” which was broadcast on radio station WWVA, in 1937. Cy Williams retired from the Border Riders in 1953. He went to work for the Wheeling Post Office, retiring in 1983. A collection of Cy’s belongings, including his fiddle, is now housed at the Ohio County Public Library Archives. ~Seán Duffy with Salli J. Barach



John Joliffe Yarnall’s (1786–1815) heroic deeds helped win the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. Yarnall was born in Wheeling, Virginia in 1786. He served in the US Navy during the War of 1812. Under Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry’s command on the Great Lakes, Yarnall was made first lieutenant aboard the flagship *Lawrence*. During the critical Battle of Lake Erie

on September 10, 1813, Yarnall was seriously injured by British cannon fire, but refused to leave his post. The Lawrence was badly damaged and British victory seemed imminent. Perry left Yarnall in command to board the fresh ship Niagara, where he renewed the attack on the British. After an almost miraculous 15 minutes of fighting, Perry's forces prevailed. With Yarnall's help, Perry had defeated the most powerful navy in the world. In fact, it was the first time in history that an entire British fleet was captured. The victory was critical to the United States. Securing vital water transportation routes on Lake Erie helped American forces win the land battle in the Great Lakes region. For his valor during the Battle of Lake Erie, Yarnall earned a gold medal from Congress. He later disappeared during the second Barbary War on July 14, 1815. The United States Navy named two destroyers after its heroic Lieutenant John Joliffe Yarnall. ~adapted from an Archiving Wheeling article by John Kniesner



James Edward Young (b. 1926) is a prominent African American physicist and Professor of Physics, Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Born in Wheeling, Young graduated from Lincoln High School in 1941. He earned a BS and an MS in physics at Howard before joining the staff of the Acoustics Laboratory at MIT as Research Assistant in 1949. Young received his PhD in Physics

from MIT in 1953, and in 1969 became a Visiting Professor. In 1970, he made history as his department's first Black tenured faculty member, a position he held until 1992, before becoming an emeritus professor. Dr. Young researched and taught theoretical particle physics, critical phenomena, and nuclear physics in the MIT Center for Theoretical Physics. As a founding member of the National Society of Black Physicists, Young mentored two promising MIT doctoral students: Shirley Ann Jackson '68, PhD '73

and Sylvester James Gates, Jr. '73, PhD '77. Both would go on to distinguished careers, including appointments by two U.S. Presidents. ~Seán Duffy

John “J.J.” Young (1929–2004)

grew up in Goosetown. From the 1930s through the 1950s, the area was a hub for the Pennsylvania and B.&O. Railroads. And J.J. Young had a front row seat. He could watch the trains pass by from front porch, but he had to get closer. Young started photographing the trains and taught himself how to develop film. He developed trust with the railroad



men, gaining unlimited access. He loved the steamers best and photographed his beloved trains mostly in black and white. When the trains stopped running, Young moved to Binghamton, New York, where he taught photography at a technical college, then retiring with his wife Liz to Charleston, WV, in 1995. He visited Wheeling a few times later in life, but was deeply saddened by the changes brought on by the end of train transport. Still, the story would be far sadder but for J.J. Young's camera. He died in 2004, but a collection of his photographs can be viewed on the lower level of the Ohio County Public Library. ~Seán Duffy

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UPPER OHIO VALLEY

HISTORICAL REVIEW

