

10-19-2021

Bill Wynne's Photographs: Reuniting a Photographer's Work Through the Digital Public Library of America

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Repository Citation

Miles, Marsha, "Bill Wynne's Photographs: Reuniting a Photographer's Work Through the Digital Public Library of America" (2021). *Michael Schwartz Library Publications*. 184.
https://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/msl_facpub/184

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Bill Wynne's Photographs:

REUNITING A PHOTOGRAPHER'S WORK THROUGH THE DIGITAL PUBLIC
LIBRARY OF AMERICA

Marsha Miles, Cleveland State University
ODNFest 2021



Bill Wynne in 2018.

About Bill Wynne

William Wynne grew up in Cleveland, living for a short time at the [Parmadale Children's Village of St. Vincent de Paul](#), and graduating from West Technical High School. During WWII, he served as an aerial photographer for the U.S. Air Force, conducting photo reconnaissance in the Pacific Ocean theater. He flew 13 combat missions with the 3rd Emergency Rescue Squadron as an aerial photographer. Wynne also worked as a lab technician and as a camera installer on F-5 Lightning (Photo Recon P-38s) reconnaissance planes with the 26th Photo Recon Squadron. For this military service, Wynne was awarded two U.S. Presidential Unit Citations and eight Battle Stars.

After the war, he worked a three-month stint as a Hollywood dog handler before returning to Cleveland with his family. Thanks to Air Force connections and to his Air Force schooling in laboratory and aerial photography, he was hired by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (later called the NASA Lewis Flight Propulsion Laboratory), where he served happily for seven years before being offered a more lucrative position as a photographer for *the Plain Dealer*.

At *the Plain Dealer* he went on to become an award-winning photographer and photojournalist. An advocate for justice, Wynne was honored as part of the investigative journalism team that exposed the abuses at Lima State Hospital for the Criminally Insane in the 1970's. Wynne was inducted into the Ohio Press and Journalism Hall of Fame and was a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in 1973.

Challenges



Unforeseen
Copyright Issues



Work During the
Pandemic

The Finished Project

The screenshot shows the Cleveland Memory website interface. At the top, it says "from the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University" and "CLEVELAND memory.org". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: "cleveland memory home", "browse by topic", "ebooks", "about us", "my saved items", "reproductions", "local history", and "contact us". The main content area is titled "Browsing Items In: William Wynne Photography Collection". It includes a search bar with "William Wynne" entered, a sort-by dropdown set to "Relevance", and a results per page dropdown set to "50". Below the search bar, there are three photo thumbnails with captions:

- Wayne County farmer in barn with cows**: Farmers; Cows. Farmer in barn with cows. "Wayne County Farmer 1980" -- photo verso. William Wynne Photography Collection. ☆ Save
- Girl with dog**: Children & animals; Dogs. Girl with dog. "Photo by Wm A Wynne" -- photo verso. William Wynne Photography Collection. ☆ Save
- Lake freighter, St. Lawrence River, Canada**: Saint Lawrence River; Cargo ships. Lake freighter, flanked by two small boats on the mouth of St. Lawrence River in Canada. "St. Lawrence [sic] River Canada, by Wm. A. Wynne" -- photo verso. William Wynne Photography Collection. ☆ Save

At the bottom, there is a "Creator" section with a thumbnail for "Mills".

The William Wynne Collection

[CMP HOME](#) > [WEB EXHIBITS](#) > [WILLIAM WYNNE](#)

Bill Wynne's Photographs: Reuniting a Photographer's Work Through the Digital Public Library of America

Award-winning photographer and photojournalist William "Bill" Wynne captured the visual record of historically-significant events in Cleveland politics and society over the latter half of the 20th century.

Mr. Wynne donated to Cleveland State University's Michael Schwartz Library a collection comprised of photographs, newspaper clippings and scrapbooks (including letters and notes), mostly documenting Cleveland area events and an expansive range of news stories for *The Plain Dealer* newspaper. Subjects documented within this collection include animals, the arts, celebrities, civil and human rights, industry and nature. Also included in the collection are profiles of political, religious, and sporting figures and events.

Wynne's work also encompassed artistic photographs and subjects beyond Northeastern Ohio, and he had previously donated this segment of material to John Carroll University. The Michael Schwartz Library has partnered with John Carroll to present and make available to the public both collections via Cleveland Memory.

[BROWSE ALL IMAGES IN THIS COLLECTION](#)



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Bill Wynne in 2016.

www.clevelandmemory.org/wynne

Benefits

- Expand Cleveland Memory Project's collections and reach
- Add collection despite staffing issues
- Get involved with Ohio Digital Network/DPLA
- Cleveland Memory Project partners adding their collections, too



Questions?

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Michael Schwartz
Library

The project was supported in whole or in part by federal Institute of Museum and Library Services funds, granted through the State Library of Ohio. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of IMLS or the State Library of Ohio, and no official endorsement by either agency should be inferred.

