

Ridgelawn Cemetery



Ridgelawn Cemetery's historic 14 acres of grounds are located at the corner of Ridge Street and Gulf Road. Once referred to as the "Old Elyria" cemetery, it features a Civil War Monument which is the regular site of the City's annual Memorial Day programs. Burials date back to the early 1800s. Features the grand wrought iron gated family plot of Elyria founder Heman Ely and his descendants.

1 JUDGE HEMAN ELY SR. 1775 - 1852

Founder of Elyria in 1817, and Lorain County Associate Judge. He established the first post office in the area and was Post Master.


2 ALBERT ELY 1825-1893

The middle son of Heman Ely, who provided the land for the establishment of Cascade Park.

3 MARY MARGARET CRABTREE 1880-1920

Helped set up the kindergarten system in the Philippines.

4 FORDICE WARNER "FORD" EDISON 1832-1923

Uncle of Thomas Edison. Three-time mayor of the Village of Lorain. 

5 SARAH LOUISE HOWARD 1837-1902

One of Elyria's most influential Black residents in the 1800s. She helped to establish the Lorain County Historical Society and also served on the first board of managers, offered a room in her home for exhibits, and was later president of the Society.

6 HORACE KENT KENDALL 1809 - 1850

An industrious early merchant who built a large wooden building on Broad Street known as "The Fortress." Kendall started the cash-only business by forgoing the risks and costs of credit, and was therefore able to sell goods at a much lower cost. Customers from across the country flocked to Elyria to take advantage of the lower prices, and the city flourished.

7 CLAMENCY MANN 1783 - 1825

First person to be buried in the Elyria Cemetery.

8 REV. JOHN MONTEITH 1788 - 1868

Helped to found the University of Michigan. Moved to Ohio to become the first Superintendent of Elyria High School. His home, Monteith Hall, still stands on East Ave in Elyria. The home was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Monteith was instrumental in helping slaves escape to Canada.

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9 ANNETTE ESTELLE "NETTIE" WHEELER 1839-1884

First librarian in Elyria in 1870.



10 ARTEMAS BEEBE 1793 - 1880

One of five founders of Elyria, Artemas held the first contract to deliver mail by stagecoach in the area and founded Beebe Tavern and the Beebe House hotel.

11 WASHINGTON WALLACE BOYNTON
1833 - 1916

Prominent Lorain County judge who served on the Ohio Supreme Court 1877-1881 and served as Chief Justice in 1881.



12 DR. CHARLES FREDERICK CUSHING
1829 - 1920

Pioneer of homeopathic medicine. Owned the first automobile in Lorain County and Elyria.

13 CHARLES W. SCHEIDE 1870-1957

Elyria's best known photographer, Scheide operated a studio for over 50 years and had a collection of negatives that included almost everyone in the city.



14 SAMUEL BELA RAWSON 1848-1908

Prominent in the telephone industry, president of Rawson Electric Co. and known for selecting the current site of Elyria Memorial Hospital (UH Elyria).

15 WILLIAM GRAVES SHARP 1859-1922

A U.S. Congressman, also Ambassador to France during WWI. He is known as the father of airmail.



16 EDGAR FISKE "DADDY" ALLEN
1862 - 1937

The founder of Easter Seals. The lack of adequate medical services with the death of his son due to an interurban accident in 1908 prompted Allen to raise funds for the city's first hospital, Elyria Memorial. Through the Elyria Rotary, he later founded Gates Hospital, which was the first facility in the U.S. dedicated to care of children with physical disabilities. He founded the Ohio Society for Crippled Children and the National Society for Crippled Children, which later became Easter Seals.



LORAIN COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

17 MARY F. STACY MILLER 1840 - 1910

One of the founders of the Lorain County Historical Society in 1889. The YWCA occupies her West Avenue residence today.

18 DAVID S. TROXEL 1864-1925

Founded Troxel Manufacturing Co., which at one time produced 80% of all bicycle seats.

19 GEORGE BUTTS 1838-1902

Received the Congressional Medal of Honor for service in the U.S. Navy in 1864 aboard the U.S.S. Signal in Louisiana.



20 ARTHUR L. GARFORD 1858 - 1933

Invented the padded bicycle seat and later became part of the automobile industry with his production of the Garford car in Elyria, 1905-1912. Also ran for political office. His home, The Hickories, is a museum of the Lorain County Historical Society.

