



SINCE

1841

WOODLAND

HISTORIC CEMETERY & ARBORETUM



Margaret E. Peters

Author, Educator, Historian

1936-2022

A life-long advocate for extending opportunities to all children; Margaret's life's work was in support of equality, equity and justice. As an educator, Margaret Peters shared her extraordinary knowledge and talents with the students of Dayton, Ohio.

Of her accomplishments, Margaret told the Dayton International Peace Museum in 2012 that she was "most proud of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program; the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Art, Poetry, and Prose Contest; and the impact she's had on the lives of her students."

Graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1954, Margaret Peters attended the University of Dayton. At the University of Dayton, Peters earned both a Bachelor's of Art as well as a Bachelor's in Science. Continuing her studies at UD, Margaret went on to earn her Master's degree in 1972 and a supervisor certificate in 1974.

Peters' teaching career began in the Dayton Public Schools, where she was initially hired as a remedial reading teacher. In the late 1960s, there was increased demand from parents to teach African American history at school.

During a citywide conference on the issue, Margaret stepped in to speak for a colleague who was unable to attend and delivered her own presentation. Those in attendance were so impressed that Margaret was asked to become the Black History Resource Teacher for the district in 1968.

Right Photo by Charles Steinbrunner, Dayton Daily News 11/16/1969 p.34



By sharing her knowledge of the richness of Black history and culture, Margaret was able to instill pride in her students and nurture their interest in history.

Margaret's last assignment with Dayton Public Schools was teaching English and Social Studies at Colonel White High School. At Colonel White, Peters developed a course on Black history.

During this time she compiled research to develop her book; Dayton's African American Heritage (first published in 1995), sharing the stories of African Americans living in Dayton from the city's founding through the early modern era. A second edition was published in 2005.

An informative and prolific author, Margaret Peters' other published works include: Striving to Overcome: Negro Achievers (1969); published by Dayton Public Schools, The Ebony Book of Black Achievement (1970), and with her brother, Wendell Peters as co-author; Blacks in Ohio History in 1980.



Right: Photo by Wally Nelson, Dayton Daily News, 9/27/1995 p.47

Peters officially retired in 1993, but didn't let that slow her down much; she continued to serve her community as Sunday school teacher and coordinator of the after-school tutorial program at Zion Baptist Church. Margaret also taught classes at Sinclair Community College and Central State University.

Margaret Peters has been the recipient of many well-earned national, state, and local honors. She received an "Excellence in Teaching" Award by the National Council of Negro Women in 1991, was honored by UD with an Alumni Award in 1992, named one of the Top Ten Women in Dayton, and was inducted into the Dayton Walk of Fame in 2002. Additionally, the Dayton International Peace Museum named her a Peace Hero in 2012.

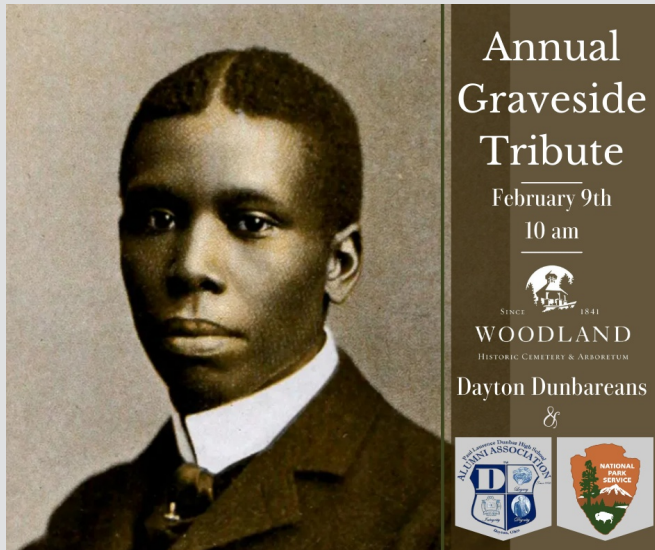
Right: Photo by Mame Burns, Dayton Daily News, 3/20/2000 p.13



In 2022, at the age of 86, Margaret Peters died peacefully in her sleep. Margaret is survived by her loving family, including her sister, Rosemary Peters Brame; nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. She is laid to rest in section 76 lot 1193.



Upcoming Events!



Woodland Cemetery, members of the Dunbar Alumni Association and Dayton Dunbareans will celebrate another annual graveside tribute to Dayton's own Paul Laurence Dunbar on the day of his death, February 9th.

The event is free and open to the public. All are invited to both the graveside and Mausoleum services.

Woodland Cemetery is located at 118 Woodland Avenue off of Brown Street in Dayton. Participants may gather at the front entrance of the Mausoleum at 9:45 a.m. for a processional to the Dunbar grave.

To find out more, click [HERE](#)



Join us for a special Black History month tour of the Woodland Mausoleum! This building is climate controlled and handicap accessible. Visitors will be walking on both carpet and marble floors.

Hear the stories of notable Daytonians including George C. Cooper, James Parsons, W. S. McIntosh, Bob & Norma Ross, and many more inside the Woodland Mausoleum, featuring beautiful stained glass windows and varieties of marble.

The tour will be offered on two Saturdays, February 10th and 24th at 2:00 pm. The tour will last two hours and if weather permits, will include a walk to James H McGhee, Jordan Anderson, Paul Laurence Dunbar and other gravesites.

To register for this tour, click [HERE](#)

Share Your Story With Us:

Here at Woodland, we love to share stories of those who rest within our grounds.



It is most often thanks to family members or newspaper articles that those stories reach us, which allows us to include their loved ones in features like this.

Does your relative have a story we should be telling? Let us know by sending an email to ashimp@woodlandcemetery.org

Come Visit Us!



Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
8am-5pm

If you need help finding where someone is buried, need directions to a particular area, or have questions about pre-planning or funeral services, Woodland's Staff is here to assist you!

Volunteer opportunities

Woodland is seeking volunteers to give presentations to community groups on subjects such as local history, notable biographies, and trees.

Not into public speaking? Consider getting involved with our horticulture team, or assisting with special events & research projects.

*If there is something you'd like to see here at Woodland please reach out to us & suggest it!

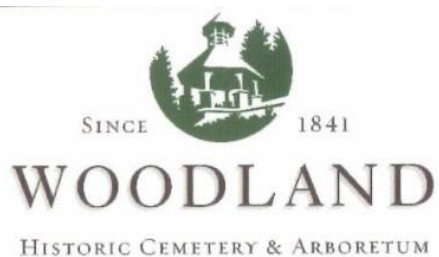
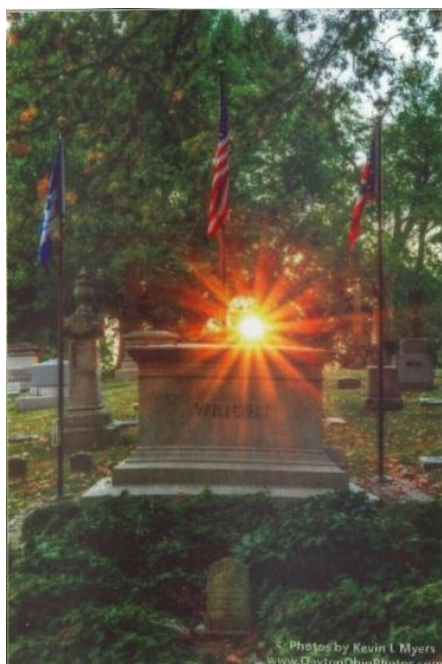
Tours & More:

We welcome walkers, runners, and wanderers -- leashed dogs & school groups.

Register for a guided tour: visit the Woodland Cemetery website! Learn about fascinating Daytonians resting peacefully in one of America's oldest rural garden cemeteries!

Or check out our [virtual tours](#)! (if you really don't want to go outside)

DONATE ONLINE!



Committed to providing dignified and caring funeral services and burial options to families of all faiths since 1841.

Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum
118 Woodland Ave.
Dayton, OH 45409
woodlandcemetery.org

Beautiful. Timeless. Still Available...



Discover the men and women who made it great in Dayton on a guided walking or bus tour. Self-guided tours are available on our mobile app.

For information call 937-228-3221 or e-mail info@woodlandcemetery.org

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | [Visit our website!](http://woodlandcemetery.org)

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum | 118 Woodland Ave., Dayton, OH 45409